

## 'Iran wanted to reach Kuwait'

KUWAIT (AP) — A leading Iraqi army commander was quoted here Friday as saying that the latest Iranian offensive was aimed at occupying the Basra-Umm al-Qasr highway and then moving westwards "till the Kuwaiti borders." General Hisham Sabah Al Fakhri, commander of the East Tigris Iraqi forces, told the newspaper Al Anba that this plan was unveiled from "detailed maps found with the Iranian prisoners and those killed." Basra is about 200 kilometres north of Kuwait. The commander, who was interviewed on the battlefield, told the newspaper that the Iranians lost 50,000 killed and several thousand prisoners in the latest offensives over the past weeks. He said these included "large numbers of boys not more than 14 years of age and old men of over 60." Gen. Fakhri conceded Iran had succeeded in initially occupying some border villages east of the Tigris River, but that all had been regained by the Iraqis except for the Majnoon Islands.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Press Foundation

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## NATO urges restraint in Aegean

BRUSSELS (AP) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) urged Greece and Turkey Friday to "exercise the utmost restraint" in their dispute over charges that Turkish warships fired on a Greek destroyer and fishing vessels in the Aegean Sea. NATO spokesman Nuno Antas de Campos said the ambassadors of the NATO nations met for 40 minutes in a special meeting to discuss Thursday's reported incident in the Aegean Sea. "During the meeting, Greece and Turkey presented their respective positions on the reported incidents in the Aegean," the NATO spokesman said. "All the allied countries and the secretary general appealed to both parties to exercise the utmost restraint," he added. Greek government officials said in Athens that Turkish torpedo boats fired on the Greek destroyer Panther during exercises in the Aegean on Thursday.

Turkey denies firing at Greek ship, page 2.

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## Jordan backs aqi request

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Tawfiq Zaidan said Thursday that the Jordanian government has backed an Iraqi request to hold an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers. Mr. Zaidan said in this regard to the permanent Jordanian envoy to the Arab League in Tunis, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

## Grenade thrown at Israeli convoy

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two hand grenades were thrown at an Israeli military convoy near the South Lebanon town of Nabatieh on Friday, military sources here said. The sources said the grenades were thrown at the convoy from a roof of a building, but that no one was injured. The sources said they could not confirm or deny a report of Lebanon radio that another attack on Israeli troops took place east of Tyre.

## Journalist shot dead in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen in a speeding car shot dead a Beirut journalist as he walked to work in the city early Friday, eyewitnesses and hospital sources said. The journalist, identified as a freelance journalist named Ahmad, was 40, died in hospital of bullet wounds shortly after the dawn attack in a street between the French and Swiss embassies in the fashionable Ain Mirza district. Mr. Ahmad was walking to work at a nearby radio station to prepare an early news bulletin.

## Part leads Reagan-Gallup poll

WASHINGTON (R) — Democratic Senator Gary Hart would beat President Reagan if the U.S. election were held now, according to a Gallup poll released Friday. It is the second time in the past two weeks that the Gallup poll has shown Mr. Reagan trailing by a wide margin. In the latest poll, Mr. Reagan was 43 per cent, while Mr. Hart was 52 per cent. Mr. Reagan's lead over Mr. Hart in the latest poll was 11 points, compared with 10 points in the poll released last week. Mr. Reagan's lead over Mr. Hart in the latest poll was 11 points, compared with 10 points in the poll released last week.

## Soviet arms deal announced

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Soviet Union agreed Friday to sell India a fleet of fighter jets, warships, missiles, army hardware and electronic surveillance systems, officials here said. The supplies will be made on a priority basis, "with great sense of urgency," the Indian sources said in a written statement.

## Israeli minister arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Patt arrived here Friday for the opening of international trade fair and its Egyptian officials. Mr. Patt is the second Israeli cabinet minister to visit Egypt since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

# Hussein praises Chinese stand towards Arab issues

## Li re-affirms Peking support for Palestinian cause

By a Jordan Times writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday voiced the Arab Nation's appreciation to China for its support of just Arab causes and the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The King said, values China's stand "against all forms of aggression and hegemony and shares China's belief in the principle of the right to self-determination of all peoples" and pledged to work towards the establishment of "peace and end to all forms of aggression and imperialism and occupation rule everywhere in the world."

The King was addressing a banquet which he and Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted at Al Hussein Youth City in honour of President Li Xianmin, his wife, King Hussein welcomed President Li, who arrived in Amman earlier Thursday, and said the Chinese leader's visit to Jordan was a "chance for the Jordanian people to express their feelings of deep friendship and appreciation for China's leadership, its government and people."

The King referred to the economic, social and trade relations which bind China with Jordan and paid tribute to the contribution of

Chinese construction companies operating in Jordan.

The King hoped the two countries will continue to bolster their co-operation in various fields on a firm basis of common benefit and mutual respect.

With reference to the Middle East conflict, the King said: "In two months' time the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights will complete 17 years under occupation and the world remains unable to implement resolutions issued by the United Nations since the 1967 war."

"It is a lack of determination on the part of the world community that has encouraged the Israelis to take an intransigent stand and about all peace bids."

"Israel has also been encouraged by United States hesitation in assuming its superpower role in peace efforts, and found in its friendship with the U.S. support for its illegal practices and unlawful policies in the occupied Arab territories. With the unlimited military and material support it obtains from the United States, Israel has been executing a policy designed to evict the Palestinians from their homeland with the purpose of settling Jews in their place."

"Jordan has been directly affected by Israel's evil policies and aggression on the Palestinians and their land, but will remain committed to national causes and responsibilities towards the Palestinian people," the King continued. "Jordan will never abandon its historic, cultural, economic and political links with the Palestinians and their land and will continue to seek a peaceful and just settlement for the Palestine problem based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and other U.N. resolutions which guarantee Palestinian rights."

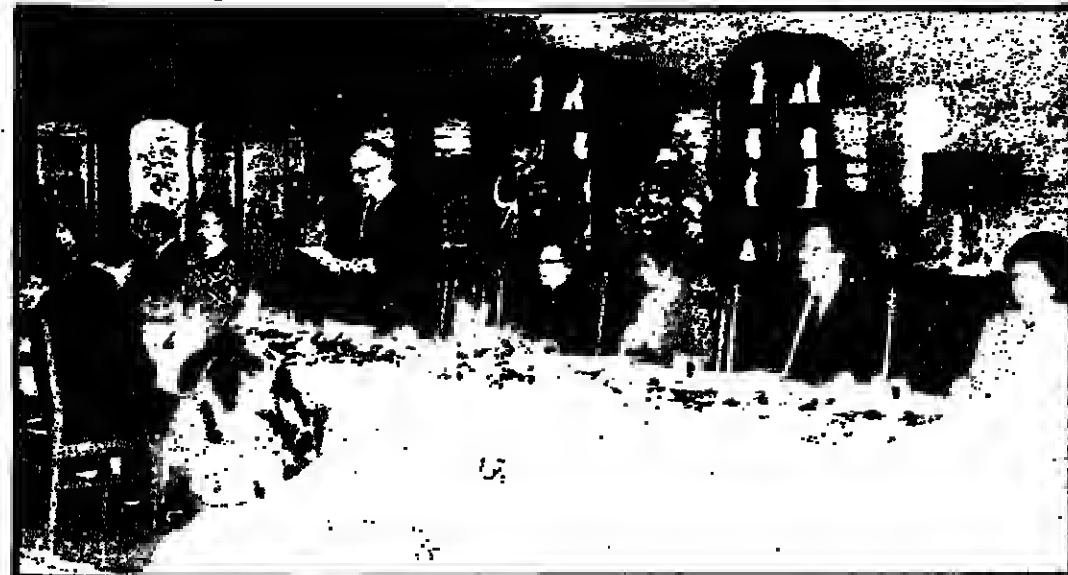
In conformity with this policy, the King added, "Jordan works closely with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reach a practical formula with which to gain regional and international backing before launching an offensive on the international level for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and settling the Middle East problem."

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, King Hussein said: "Lebanon was another Arab country to fall victim to Israel's ambitions and aggression. Since 1982 Israel has been occupying parts of Lebanon in defiance of all U.N. resolutions and against the wish of the country's population."

"Jordan had been calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign forces from Lebanon so that the national interests and the territorial integrity of Lebanon can be safeguarded. But, again we witness the superpowers and other world nations hesitant in taking a firm action that would deter the aggressors and preserve peace and security in this region. Lebanon remains divided, its people displaced, and destruction and killing as wild as ever due to Israel's invasion and the conflict among its people."

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, the King said: "This war is the third hotbed in the Middle East and is rapidly threatening world peace and the interests of many countries of the world. Despite this situation and the dangers, many world nations have adopted an attitude of observers or indifference as to what is happening in the Gulf region."

"Undecisiveness and lack of firm action on the part of the world have encouraged Iran to pursue its aggression on Iraq, causing much suffering, destruction, loss of life and sapping of economic resources on both sides. Since the beginning of the war, Iraq had responded favourably to peace calls and mediations and expressed its desire to settle the



His Majesty King Hussein delivers a speech Thursday at a banquet he and Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted to honour visiting Chinese President Li Xianmin (to the King's right) and his wife (to the King's left). The banquet was also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Highness Princess Sarvath and Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat and his wife (right).

issue by peaceful means. This was met with more intransigence and arrogance from the Iranian side and now we see peace and security in the Gulf seriously threatened, and therefore, it is time for world nations to take action and restore peace to the Gulf and safeguard world interests and peace. We still have hope that peace will come to this region as long as its peoples

are working towards achieving it and seeking freedom and progress."

In reply to the King's speech, President Li attacked Israel and, indirectly, its ally the United States for the unresolved Middle East and Palestinian problems.

"The Middle East and the Palestinian problems remain unresolved mainly because the Israeli

(Continued on page 3)

# Fighting, rightist stand threaten Lebanon talks

## BEIRUT (Agencies) — Heavy fighting in Beirut and statements by Christian political leaders Friday prompted pessimism about Lebanese peace talks due to open in Switzerland next week.

In Damascus, Lebanese opposition leaders met with Syrian officials as they prepared their final position paper for the reconciliation talks scheduled to begin Monday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Morning exchanges of machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades between militiamen across the "green line" that divides mostly Muslim West Beirut from the mainly Christian east were followed in the afternoon by sporadic shelling in widespread areas of the capital.

The leftist Beirut newspaper Al Liwa claimed Friday that three "secret operatives" affiliated with the predominantly Christian rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia have been assigned to assassinate top opposition leaders during the planned reconciliation talks next week in Lausanne.

There was no confirmation for the reported plot against Shafie Berri and Nabih Berri and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader, Walid Jumblatt. The newspaper attributed the report to unnamed sources in Mr. Berri's "Amal" militia.

Al Liwa said the alleged plot caused no change in Mr. Berri's and Mr. Jumblatt's plan to attend the reconciliation conference.

"Apparently no one believes in it but everyone is going," the independent newspaper L'Orient-Le Jour said of the national reconciliation conference due to

open on Monday.

The newspaper's comment summed up doubts that the talks, which will be attended by eight Christian and Muslim factional leaders and chaired by President Amin Gemayel, would produce a settlement.

As some conference delegates left for Switzerland, Beirut resounded to the sound of machine-gun fire and explosions of rocket-propelled grenades, high explosives and air-burst fragmentation shells.

The fighting intensified during the afternoon and streets and parks cleared rapidly as people fled to shelters.

The atmosphere in the city contrasted sharply with the optimism five days ago after the government abrogated the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement with Israel.

The abrogation, a major concession to Syria and the opposition, was hailed as historic for Lebanon and as clearing the way for resumption of peace talks.

Mr. Gemayel followed it up by summoning the Lausanne talks and winning the agreement of all main factional leaders to attend. But since then there have been few signs that they are ready for real political détente or a lasting settlement for Lebanon.

An informal ceasefire has been only sporadically observed and the frequent breaches extended Friday into non-stop fighting along the "green line."

The rival factions have failed to agree on a meeting of a security committee empowered to formalise the ceasefire.

They have also failed to agree to reopen Beirut airport, whose operation is considered a barometer of the political climate.

The airport, Lebanon's main link with the outside world, has been closed since heavy fighting began between the army and opposition militias on Feb. 6.

As rival groups held consultations prior to the conference, two right-wing Christian leaders said they would refuse to discuss any constitutional changes at Lausanne while foreign troops remained in Lebanon.

The opposition groups plan to propose sweeping changes intended to end Christian domination of the power structure.

But former President Camille Chamoun and Falangist Party leader Pierre Gemayel, father of the president, said in a statement: "Under no circumstances are we going to accept discussion over this issue under political and military pressure."

Their statement appeared to cast doubt on the chances of the talks producing progress towards national reconciliation.

In Damascus, Mr. Berri and Mr. Jumblatt held a preparatory meeting to work out their position at the conference. The meeting was attended by Saudi mediator Rafiq Al Hariri.

They were expected to be joined by former President Suleiman Franjeh and ex-Prime Minister Rashid Karami who left for Damascus during Friday morning.

Syria to help Lebanese reconciliation, page 2

## Arafat due in 2 days; expected to meet Li

By Laris K. Andoni  
A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive here in 48 hours, according to a senior PLO official.

During his "short visit", Mr. Arafat will meet Chinese President Li Xianmin, who is currently on an official visit to Jordan, and is also expected to meet His Majesty King Hussein, the official, who declined to be named, said.

He added that Mr. Arafat's meeting with the King will not be a continuation of the Jordan-PLO dialogue which started 10 days ago, "since it will be a very short visit."

Talks between Jordan and the PLO have concluded with a basic agreement to continue the dialogue on a joint political strategy towards the Palestinian question.

Reports from Tunis said that the central committee of Fateh, Mr. Arafat's power base in the PLO, met over the last two days and discussed the results of last week's talks in Amman.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported from Tunis that the PLO chairman lent his support Thursday to an Iraqi call for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad next Tuesday.

Iraq has appealed for the meeting on Wednesday in efforts to rally Arab support to counter the Iranian aggression.

## N.Yemen lauds Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The political advisor of the president of North Yemen, Dr. Hussein Makki, Friday praised His Majesty King Hussein's "national stands towards the Palestinian question, and Arab causes and his endeavours to strengthen Arab ranks to counter the dangers surrounding the Arab Nation."

Dr. Makki, who was interviewed by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, in Baghdad, said his government has started intensified political moves to heal Arab differences and prepare for a new summit conference, which he said, should be held as soon as possible.

In reply to a question about Jordanian-Yemeni relations, the Yemeni official said they are "excellent" and that they "derive their strength from the instructions and the wisdom of King Hussein and (North Yemeni) President Ali Abdullah Saleh."

# King, Chinese leader review bilateral relations, Mideast

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and visiting Chinese President Li Xianmin Friday began official talks covering bilateral relations, the Middle East, the Palestinian problem and international matters of mutual interest.

During a three-and-a-half-hour meeting with President Li, King Hussein briefed the Chinese leader on Jordan's position towards various Middle East issues and the pre-requisites for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on United Nations Resolution 242 which calls on Israel to withdraw from the Arab lands occupied since the 1967 war.

King Hussein stressed that there could be no peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdrew from the occupied Arab territories and recognised the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination and the right to an independent state on Palestinian soil.

President Li, who arrived here Thursday, on an official six-day visit, said: "The Middle East and the Palestinian problem remains unresolved mainly because the Israeli authorities, backed by a superpower, refuse to recognise the Palestinian people's legitimate rights."

Earlier, Mrs. Li visited the King Hussein Medical Centre and toured the centre's various sections.

Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese president Friday night.

Mr. Li, heading a 15-member top-level Chinese delegation, was received upon arrival Thursday by King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor and high-ranking Jordanian officials. After a 21-gun salute and reviewing a guard of honour, King Hussein and President Li proceeded to Al Nadwa Palace through streets decorated by Chinese and Jordanian flags.

President Li, the first Chinese head of state to visit Jordan, said

in an arrival statement that his visit was aimed at "increasing mutual understanding, promoting friendship and expanding co-operation."

President Li, who arrived from Pakistan on the second leg of a four-nation tour, is expected to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. Mr. Arafat, who was in Amman one week ago for talks with King Hussein, was expected back here Saturday, Palestinian officials said.

China, a strong supporter of the PLO, has backed the Arab World in its conflict with Israel. Upon leaving Amman last week, after five days of talks with King Hussein, Mr. Arafat said that he planned to visit the Soviet Union and China soon.

The Chinese leader's visit here is in return for one made by King Hussein to Peking in September last year. The King also visited China earlier in 1983 as a member of an Arab League mission to promote an Arab plan for Middle East peace.

Trade between China and Jordan totalled about \$70 million last year, compared with \$50 million in 1981. Six Chinese firms have won construction projects in the Kingdom, employing about 3,000 Chinese labourers.

After Jordan, President Li is scheduled to visit Turkey and Nepal.

# Iraq, Iran report fierce battles

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq and Iran both reported fierce fighting Friday on the southern front in the Gulf war as a senior United Nations official said there was little hope of an early end to the 41-month-long conflict.

Iraq said it killed, wounded or captured large numbers of Iranian troops and Iran claimed a "futile" Iraqi counter-attack on the island of Majnoon had been foiled.

Iran's news agency IRNA said Iranian forces thwarted an attack by Iraqi forces to retake Majnoon, an artificial island built just inside Iraqi territory to exploit the area's vast oil reserves.

An Iraqi military statement said Iraqi helicopter gunships attacked Iranian positions close to the border.

A leading member of the United Nations Security Council admitted there was no immediate hope for ending the conflict.

Sardar Shah Nawaz, last month's president of the Security Council, also told reporters in New York the council would probably not get involved in an examination of whether Iraq had used chemical weapons against Iran.

A senior Iraqi official denied Thursday that his country possessed or had used such weapons. "Iraq does not need chemical weapons. We have weapons of mass destruction that are quite capable of wiping out these human waves," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has also denied Iranian charges Iraq had used chemical weapons in recent fighting.

"This story has been fabricated by the Iranians to cover up the failure of their latest offensive," President Hussein said in a speech two days ago.

U.S.: Iran holds key

The United States said Thursday that Iran held the key to ending the war with Iraq and noted that Baghdad had repeatedly said it was ready for a ceasefire.

The State Department spokesman John Hughes said this condemnation was "unqualified" but added, "at the same time we take note of Iraq's repeatedly expressed willingness to cease fire and Iran's refusal to do so."

"It is a fact that the Iranian regime, not Iraq, now holds the key to ending the bloodshed," he said, adding: "In particular, the regime's wanton destruction of human life through human wave tactics and its continued rejection of numerous mediation attempts belie the moral basis which it claims."

Intelligence reports indicate Iran has massed up to half a million troops near the border for an attack American officials say could determine the future of the 41-month-old conflict.

Iraqi officials say Baghdad's armoury of heavy missiles and its air force could deliver adequate fire power to shatter Iranian troop concentrations.

Iraq has an arsenal of Soviet-made SS-12 and Scud-B missiles with a combat range of 800 and 300 kilometres respectively and its air force is believed by Western diplomats to be more than a match for Iranian air power.

Japan concerned over Gulf war escalation: Iran offers subsidised insurance for shipping; Gulf conflict tops GCC agenda, page 2

## INSIDE

- Gulf war may drag on, says U.S. professor, page 2
- Lower House condemns Iran, page 3
- Bush emerges as force in Reagan's foreign policy campaign, page 4
- How does the Arabic language affect our character, page 5
- Algeria, Egypt threaten to dominate African soccer, page 6
- Key OPEC committee starts market review, page 7
- Britain begins cruise missile exercise, page 8



# Gulf war may drag on for months, U.S. professor says

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Iran-Iraq war may drag on for months or years to come, according to Barry Rubin of the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

However, Dr. Rubin sees no immediate signs of an escalation into the Gulf which would bring other nations into the three-and-one-half-year-old conflict. Nor did the professor see how the United States could do much to stop the war.

Addressing foreign journalists here Thursday, Dr. Rubin said of the current situation that although Iran reportedly is massing between 300,000 and 500,000 troops on the front he believes the Iraqis are "well dug in, they are well defended and they have shown the ability to inflict high losses on the Iraqis using a variety of weapons including some rather unsavory ones. So, I think the odds are... that the Iraqis will be able to hold out."

But even if the major Iranian effort fails, Dr. Rubin expressed the belief that this would not mean an end to the fighting.

He pointed out that Iranian leader

Ayatollah Khomeini has set the goal of overthrowing the Iraqi government and installing an Islamic regime, "and Ayatollah Khomeini is not a man who easily changes his mind."

But he said this does not seem imminent, either by direct attack or by an overthrow of the Iraqi government from within.

Dr. Rubin said President Hussein knows how to build a strong base. He said there appeared to be no widespread defection in Baghdad even among Shi'ites. In fact, Dr. Rubin said he believes there is a "widespread hatred" for Iran among the Iraqi Shi'ites as well as the Sunnis.

Iraq is not about to collapse, Dr. Rubin said, and he sees no signs of an "internal revolution."

On reports of Iraqi use of chemical weapons, Dr. Rubin said he had no specific information. However, he pointed out that since the weapon is very primitive, "I find it

credible that they are making it themselves."

He did not interpret the U.S. condemnation of the use of chemical weapons as taking sides in the war.

Dr. Rubin discounted the immediate danger of Iraq internationally attempting to escalate the war by attacking a foreign tanker in the Gulf and thereby, perhaps, triggering an Iranian threat to try to close the Strait of Hormuz — a move that President Reagan has said the United States would not permit.

"Iraq has this card to play... it is the ultimate weapon," Dr. Rubin said of the possible sinking of an oil tanker in the Gulf. However, he expressed the belief that Iraq is "no where near desperate enough to try this."

He said Iraq apparently is developing a "constructive" strategy, which means that "instead of Iraq trying to reduce Iranian oil exports, Iraq would try to increase its own oil exports."

He noted the improvement of the pipeline through Turkey, and long-range talk of Iraqi pipelines through Jordan and Iraqi pip-

elines through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea.

He also pointed out the difficulties Iran would have in any attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz.

Because the strait is deep and wide, Dr. Rubin said, mining the channel or sinking ships in an effort to block the entrance to the Gulf would be ineffective. Using artillery from islands or the mainland on the north side of the strait, using the now-depleted Iranian Air Force, or using the Iranian Navy could close the strait only for a short time. These efforts could easily be countered by the United States, he said.

Dr. Rubin said the most effective means Iran has at its disposal might be hit and run attacks by small boats on tankers — but a convoy protected by the United States could deal with this.

Dr. Rubin also noted that Iran needs the strait to export some of its oil and to import foreign goods. And, he said, even if Iran did manage to close off the shipment of oil through the strait for a few days, the only effect likely would be a brief increase in oil prices

## Japan concerned over escalation of Gulf war

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese Foreign Ministry Thursday expressed concern over the escalation of the Gulf war following Iraq's attacks on foreign ships and allegations that it was using chemical weapons.

The spokesman, referring to Iraqi attacks on foreign vessels in the Gulf, said "we are worried about an expansion of the war."

A spokesman for the Japanese shipowners association told Reuters the attacks on British, Indian and Turkish vessels by Iraq on March 1 meant a sharp increase in the risks run by Japanese owners.

"An attack on a civilian vessel

owned by such a big nation as Britain means the war situation is getting worse for us, with increasing risks."

Earlier this week the association asked Japanese tanker owners to postpone their journeys to Kharg Island, the Iranian oil loading terminal, because of the worsening of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Two Japanese tankers due to go to Kharg this week have been rerouted to Ras Tanurah in Saudi Arabia, and the ships' operators have chartered foreign vessels to fetch the Iranian oil, the spokesman said.

## Iran offers concessionary insurance for oil tankers

LONDON (R) — Iran Thursday offered concessionary insurance rates against war damage to encourage tankers to lift oil from its Gulf ports and said it was backing its offer by putting \$100 million into a London Bank account.

Insurance rates for ships using Iran's main oil terminal of Kharg Island have doubled since Iraq launched missile attacks on ships.

The owners of three merchant ships — British, Indian and Turkish — reported their vessels hit.

The Iranian National News Agency IRNA, received in London, said the Iran Insurance Company would insure all oil tankers

loading at Kharg Island and other Iranian terminals and their cargoes at a premium of one per cent of their value.

Earlier this week, insurance brokers in London said war risk premiums for ships using Kharg Island and the port of Bushire, south east of Kharg, had doubled to 1.5 per cent.

Rates for ships going to more northerly destinations were said to be "very much higher."

The agency, stating the one per cent premium had been offered in the past, said payment of damages would be made in a speedy manner.

## Gulf war tops agenda for GCC ministers' meeting

BAHRAIN (R) — The latest escalation in the three-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war is expected to be the major concern of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies at a foreign ministers' meeting starting in Riyadh Saturday.

The ministers are from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain which form the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and support Iraq in the war, pumping its war-chest economy with billions of dollars.

The situation in the Gulf is considered to be at a dangerous stage following Iran's latest offensive, launched late last month, and U.S. intelligence reports of up to 500,000 Iranian forces poised for what could be, one way or the other, a decisive attack.

The Gulf states fear possible foreign intervention should the 41-month-old conflict threaten the

Western world's oil supplies from the Gulf.

Such fears were voiced by Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Ahmad bin Saif Al Thani, in an interview published Friday by the London-based Ash Sharq Al Awsat newspaper.

"The recent escalation in the conflict has encouraged foreign fleets to come to the area, prior to intervention if Western oil supplies are threatened or the Hormuz Strait (the entrance to the Gulf) is closed," he said.

Iran has threatened to close the strait if Iraq disrupts its oil shipments.

A sixth of the non-Communist world's oil supplies passes through the 24-mile wide strait and a flotilla of U.S., French and British warships, stationed in the region,

would be widely expected to try to restore navigation if Iran blocked the Gulf.

Earlier this week, Ibrahim Al Sohihi, the council's assistant secretary-general for political affairs, told the official Saudi Press Agency the recent escalation in the conflict "may lead to foreign power intervention in the region, a move totally rejected by Gulf states."

Sheikh Ahmad was quoted Friday as saying the Arab League was expected shortly to float a new initiative to try to end the Gulf conflict, which erupted in September 1980.

He gave no details but Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi recently visited Iraq and a number of other Gulf Arab countries. After Mr. Klibi's visit, Iraq called for a special meeting of

Arab League foreign ministers.

Sheikh Ahmad was also quoted as saying the two-day Riyadh meeting would focus on the Iran-Iraq war. He said latest developments in the Arab World made consultations among Arab leaders imperative and that all inter-Arab differences should be removed.

Sheikh Ahmad said other efforts to end the war, despite their failure in the past, were still going on.

The Gulf Cooperation Council, the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement were all involved in these efforts, he said.

Sheikh Ahmad mentioned the Lebanese crisis and the Palestinian problem as other possible topics of discussion at the Riyadh meeting.

## Morocco accuses Tunisia of hostility

RABAT (R) — In a strongly-worded attack on Tunisia a Moroccan minister has accused the government of President Habib Bourguiba of hostility to Morocco in the Western Sahara issue.

Ahmad Alaoui, minister of state without portfolio, accused Tunisia of "capitulation" by espousing Algerian arguments in favour of the Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for the independence of the Western Sahara.

In an editorial in the pro-government daily Le Matin, Alaoui commented on a joint communiqué issued in Tunis on Tuesday after talks between leaders of the ruling Tunisian Socialist Destour Party (SDP) and the Algerian FLN Party.

"The SDP has purely and simply espoused the Algerian thesis by joining FLN chorus to speak of self-determination, of the right to independence and of a Saharan people," he said.

Morocco, by accepting a referendum proposed by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) had accepted self-determination for the Western Sahara, but there was "a flagrant contradiction between self-determination and the right to independence proclaimed by the SDP and FLN," he said.

## Lebanon mission boosts Italian politics

ROME (R) — The Italian mission in Lebanon has turned into a diplomatic success while enhancing Italy's moral authority in Mediterranean politics, foreign policy experts here say.

As the last land-based troops of the contingent returned home this week to a heroes welcome, politicians were unanimous that the 18-month operation was an unexpected diplomatic success.

"An episode which seemed destined to bring us criticism from all sides instead earned the country maximum credibility," Christian Democrat Senator Giulio Orlando said.

It was the first major overseas assignment by Italian Armed Forces since World War II and was widely seen as a test of their ability to stand up to a difficult task.

"The Italian contingent is not looking for any thanks," its commanding officer General Franco

Angioni told the meeting. "As members of the Italian Armed Forces, they merely did their duty."

He told Reuters later he believed the operation alongside French, British and U.S. troops had greatly increased Italian prestige.

No sooner had the first Beirut detachment set sail from Taranto than one of the vessels broke down, prompting press comments that Italy was embarking on a foolish quest for glory with ill-equipped and inexperienced troops.

In Beirut the troops endured jibes at the "chicken army," because of their ceremonial plumed berets, while their lorryloads of spaghetti and other dry pasta also invited mockery.

When the main force landed in Livorno last month, President Sandro Pertini told them: "The

Lebanese population will miss you because you stood by the women and children. You showed humanity, and brought honour to the Italian flag and people."

The Italian troops in Beirut were responsible mainly for the protection of the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila where hundreds of Palestinians were massacred.

Gen. Angioni told Reuters: "We were the first contingent to come under attack, in an ambush last March, but we then took technical measures to reduce the risk of confrontation."

"Later, we were in a better position because we tried rigorously to stay within our mission, a peacekeeping mission."

He said the U.S. and French contingents "represented two nations that were deeply involved in some political situations, which not the case with Italy and a hope will remain so."

## Syria to help Lebanese reconciliation

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria promised Thursday to do all it could to support national reconciliation in Lebanon as leaders of Lebanese factions prepared for new talks in Switzerland.

The assistant regional secretary of the ruling Baath Party, Mr. Zuhair Masharqa, made the promise in a speech on behalf of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to a congress of the Syrian Women's Federation.

"Syria will uphold national dialogue and will spare no effort to achieve national reconciliation and save Lebanon from the miseries of civil war," Mr. Masharqa said.

whose peace treaty with Israel is fiercely opposed by Syria.

"The declaration of the May 1 accord as null and void has a historic meaning which will have far-reaching consequences in degrading American imperialism and Zionism and their designs," a Syrian official said.

Syria and Lebanon opposition opposed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement because, although committed Israeli troops to withdraw from South Lebanon, gave Israel a role in policing the area and looked like a form peace treaty.

"I appeal to all our brothers in Lebanon to live up to present circumstances in order to rescue Lebanon and achieve reconciliation," he added.

The reconciliation talks, begun in Geneva last November, resume in Lausanne on Monday.

Opposition leaders agreed to attend after the Lebanese government gave in to demands by them and Syria for the abrogation of last May's Lebanese-Israeli agreement on troop withdrawals.

Mr. Masharqa said the cancellation of the May 17 accord should be an example for Egypt,

## Turkey denies firing on Greek destroyer

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Friday flatly denied Greek allegations that its warships had opened fire on a Greek destroyer in the Aegean Sea Thursday and said it still offered friendship to Athens.

The government statement said: "The claims that shots were fired at a Greek gunboat or fishing boats are not true... the Greek government, trying to show that something had taken place which had not, tried to create an artificial crisis."

The statement said Turkish naval vessels, on military exercises which Athens had been warned about, had fired anti-aircraft rounds which exploded in the air and were of no danger to ships.

Greece said three volleys of shells from Turkish ships narrowly missed a Greek destroyer and some Greek trawlers off the Greek island of Samothraki. It ordered the withdrawal of the Greek ambassador in Ankara and said the Turkish ambassador in Athens must leave.

The two NATO alliance neighbours have long been in dispute over Cyprus, rights in the Aegean and other issues.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal ridiculed the Greek allegations but repeated an offer of friendship to Athens.

"These people are frightened to Turkey," Mr. Ozal told a meeting of his conservative Motherland Party supporters in the western

town of Kutahya. "We don't want to do anything to them. But you know there is a saying that before a child is touched it screams 'mother, they're beating me'."

He said Mr. Papandreu "is a person who likes to put on an act" and Turkey would not give up its rights in the Aegean.

But he added: "When I read my government programme three months ago I said I extended the hand of friendship to Greece. We extend that hand of friendship to Greece once again."

Although the incident marked a new low point in the two countries' fraught relations, diplomats said Ankara appeared to want to stop tension escalating out of control.

Government officials declined public comment on the incident until more than 12 hours after it occurred, avoiding an immediate sharp response, the diplomats said.

The Turkish statement said that if Greek "tension policies" resulted from a misinterpretation of Ankara's offer of friendship, "Turkey is ready to help eliminate this error."

Earlier Friday in Athens, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu described the naval incident in the Aegean as the greatest provocation by Turkey since 1974.

State radio quoted him as adding in a speech to regional prefects

that "this was a deliberate, indicative act."

Greeks blame U.S.

Several Greek newspapers blamed the United States for the incident.

The pro-government Eleftheri Gnomi said: "The open support and full protection that the Reagan government and the hawks of the Pentagon offer Ankara emboldened Turkey yesterday. With its pro-Turkish policy, it was literally President Reagan who fired the Turkish guns."

The Communist Rizopastis also blamed the United States, saying the Americans were trying to create a crisis between Greece and Turkey.

Greece has recently threatened to reconsider a U.S. bases agreement because of Mr. Reagan's 1985 military aid proposals, which envisage more aid on better terms for Ankara than for Athens.

Newspapers unanimously lashed Turkey over the incident, which they said marked a new high-point in tension between the two nominal NATO allies. However, there had been no move to mobilise the Greek army or cancel leave.

The influential daily Kathimerini quoted alternate Defence Minister Antonis Drosos as saying Turkey had no excuse for the incident.

A Turkish plane towing a target had flown over the exercise area but Turkey could not claim that the ships were firing at the target because the first shots were fired 11 minutes after the aircraft had flown over, he said.

Usually, when ships on exercises wanted a foreign vessel following them to leave, they approached and asked it to go, he said.

Greece's inner cabinet held an emergency session and ordered increased state of military readiness in the Aegean. The Greek spokesman said ambassadors of all NATO countries were summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told it was unprecedentedly unacceptable that a member of an alliance should provoke another allied country.

But informed sources in Ankara said Turkey's position was that had given three days notice Greece and other concerned parties it would be conducting naval exercises in the area.

Despite this a Greek ship entered the exercise zone in the Aegean as Turkish ships fired shots seawards, not westwards towards where Greece said its destroyer the Panther, was sailing, the sources said.

The incident came 24 hours after the two countries warred each other against any attempt change the status quo in the Aegean.

## TV & RADIO

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
MAIN CHANNEL  
17:30 News  
18:00 Cartoons  
18:30 Children's Programme  
19:00 The Family  
19:30 Programme Review  
20:00 Local Programme  
20:30 News in Arabic  
21:00 Arabic Series  
21:30 Local Programme  
22:15 Arabic Play  
23:00 News in Arabic  
23:30 Play Continued  
**FOREIGN CHANNEL**  
18:00 French Programme  
19:00 News in French  
19:30 News to Hebrew  
20:00 Comedy: Room Service  
20:30 China from Air  
21:00 Saturday Variety Show  
22:00 News in English  
22:15 Feature Film: Vera Cruz  
**RADIO JORDAN**  
835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM  
and partly on 9560 KHz, SW  
07:00 Light Music  
07:30 Newsweek  
08:00 Morning Show  
08:30 News Summary  
09:00 Morning Show  
10:00 News Summary  
10:30 News Summary  
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23:00 News Summary  
23:30 News Summary  
24:00 News Headlines

**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
639, 720, 1413 KHz  
06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Let There be Drums 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:10 About Britain 07:15 News 07:20 World News 07:25 From the World 07:30 A Time to Announce 07:35 World News 07:40 World News 07:45 World News 07:50 World News 07:55 World News 08:00 World News 08:05 World News 08:10 World News 08:15 World News 08:20 World News 08:25 World News 08:30 World News 08:35 World News 08:40 World News 08:45 World News 08:50 World News 08:55 World News 09:00 World News 09:05 World News 09:10 World News 09:15 World News 09:20 World News 09:25 World News 09:30 World News 09:35 World News 09:40 World News 09:45 World News 09:50 World News 09:55 World News 10:00 World News 10:05 World News 10:10 World News 10:15 World News 10:20 World News 10:25 World News 10:30 World News 10:35 World News 10:40 World News 10:45 World News 10:50 World News 10:55 World News 11:00 World News 11:05 World News 11:10 World News 11:15 World News 11:20 World News 11:25 World News 11:30 World News 11:35 World News 11:40 World News 11:45 World News 11:50 World News 11:55 World News 12:00 World News 12:05 World News 12:10 World News 12:15 World News 12:20 World News 12:25 World News 12:30 World News 12:35 World News 12:40 World News 12:45 World News 12:50 World News 12:55 World News 13:00 World News 13:05 World News 13:10 World News 13:15 World News 13:20 World News 13:25 World News 13:30 World News 13:35 World News 13:40 World News 13:45 World News 13:50 World News 13:55 World News 14:00 World News 14:05 World News 14:10 World News 14:15 World News 14:20 World News 14:25 World News 14:30 World News 14:35 World News 14:40 World News 14:45 World News 14:50 World News 14:55 World News 15:00 World News 15:05 World News 15:10 World News 15:15 World News 15:20 World News 15:25 World News 15:30 World News 15:35 World News 15:40 World News 15:45 World News 15:50 World News 15:55 World News 16:00 World News 16:05 World News 16:10 World News 16:15 World News 16:20 World News 16:25 World News 16:30 World News 16:35 World News 16:40 World News 16:45 World News 16:50 World News 16:55 World News 17:00 World News 17:05 World News 17:10 World News 17:15 World News 17:20 World News 17:25 World News 17:30 World News 17:35 World News 17:40 World News 17:45 World News 17:50 World News 17:55 World News 18:00 World News 18:05 World News 18:10 World News 18:15 World News 18:20 World News 18:25 World News 18:30 World News 18:35 World News 18:40 World News 18:45 World News 18:50 World News 18:55 World News 19:00 World News 19:05 World News 19:10 World News 19:15 World News 19:20 World News 19:25 World News 19:30 World News 19:35 World News 19:40 World News 19:45 World News 19:50 World News 19:55 World News 20:00 World News 20:05 World News 20:10 World News 20:15 World News 20:20 World News 20:25 World News 20:30 World News 20:35 World News 20:40 World News 20:45 World News 20:50 World News 20:55 World News 21:00 World News 21:05 World News 21:10 World News 21:15 World News 21:20 World News 21:25 World News 21:30 World News 21:35 World News 21:40 World News 21:45 World News 21:50 World News 21:55 World News 22:00 World News 22:05 World News 22:10 World News 22:15 World News 22:20 World News 22:25 World News 22:30 World News 22:35 World News 22:40 World News 22:45 World News 22:50 World News 22:55 World News 23:00 World News 23:05 World News 23:10 World News 23:15 World News 23:20 World News 23:25 World News 23:30 World News 23:35 World News 23:40 World News 23:45 World News 23:50 World News 23:55 World News 24:00 World News

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**TODAY'S EVENTS**  
EXHIBITIONS  
\* Turkish handicrafts, paintings, copper ware and glass ware exhibition at the San Roca Hotel.  
\* "Multiple" an Italian exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.  
**FILM**  
\* Festival de film Policier starts at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.  
\* "Photof" by Samer Tabbara at the Alfa Art Gallery at 5:00 p.m.  
**CULTURAL CENTRES**  
Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610257  
American Centre Library 44370  
British Council 36147-8  
French Cultural Centre 37009  
Goethe Institute 41993  
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203  
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049  
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777  
Hays Arts Centre 665195  
Hussein Youth City 667181  
Y.W.C.A. 41793  
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251  
Amman Municipal Library 36111  
University of Jordan Library 843555  
**MUSEUMS**  
Folklore Museum Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.  
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qafza (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.  
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century Orientalist artists. Muzenzah, Jabal Luwdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30124.  
Amman Museum (Military Museum): Collection of military armaments dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.  
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.  
**SERVICE CLUBS**  
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.  
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.  
**CHURCHES**  
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luwdeh, 37440.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Finsieh, 66177.  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdal, 23541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, A1359.  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 72561.  
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.  
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 663249.  
**PRAYER TIMES**  
04:30 Fajr  
05:53 (Sunrise) Shuruq  
11:47 Dhuhr  
14:06 Asr  
17:48 Maghrib  
19:03 Isha

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

**AMMAN AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53700, 53022, 51171, where it should always be verified.  
**ARRIVALS**  
07:00 Cairo (MS)  
08:00 Amman (RJ)  
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)  
09:45 Cairo (RJ)  
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)  
12:30 Baghdad (IA)  
16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)  
16:45 Larana (RJ)  
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)  
17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)  
17:25 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)  
18:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)  
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)  
20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)  
20:40 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)  
22:00 Cairo (MS)  
08:30 Cairo (RJ)  
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)  
**DEPARTURES**  
05:45 Cairo (RJ)  
07:00 Amman (RJ)  
08:00 Amman (RJ)  
08:30 Athens (Olympic)  
10:30 Tripoli (RJ)  
11:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)  
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
12:50 Paris, London (RJ)<



## King welcomes abrogation, urges new effort

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein spoke in a Jordanian television programme entitled "Our Issues" about a number of problems and developments in the Arab region. Questions were put to him by the editors of the three local Arabic language newspapers. Following are excerpts of the most important points in the King's statement:

### Jordanian-Palestinian talks

Q: In the past week, Amman witnessed a wide-range activity the most important of which was the visit of the PLO Leader Yasser Arafat to Amman. How do you assess the results?

A: My meeting with Mr. Arafat was good because it opened to us the opportunity to discuss the Palestine issue and the current developments in occupied Palestine. Both sides realise that the Palestine issue is now going through a very critical stage which Jordanians and Palestinians have to face together. Israel and the Zionist movement occupied the whole of Palestine and Israel now claims that it is a problem of people and not of land — the Palestinian land.

Israel also occupied land of other countries including Lebanon and recently it had been escalating efforts to Judaize occupied territories and establish settlements on confiscated Arab ter-

ritory. It is now resettling refugees and moving them from their camps to new sites in the Jordan Valley in a bid to force them to abandon their land. In addition there are Israeli attempts to impose Israeli laws on the occupied West Bank and Gaza — which means de facto annexation of the two areas.

### Water resources first

In Lebanon Israel announced that it wanted to flush out the PLO forces but after the departure of the fighters Israel, we find, is achieving another purpose in southern Lebanon. It is occupying additional Arab land and controls river sources. I have always warned against the danger of Israel's intentions in southern Lebanon, because once it acquired control over the water resources it would settle millions of Jews in Arab territories that can be supplied with water. This policy assumed more formidable proportions following the 1967 war and the occupation of the Golan Heights. Now the Israelis control the water resources in Lebanon and we are concerned over this situation and also concerned over the future of nearly 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon because recently we have noticed that large numbers of people who carry Jordanian passports but are of Palestinian origin have come to settle in Jordan in view of the bad economic and financial situation in Arab states in which they had been living.

### Palestinian representation

In 1974 Jordan pledged to regard the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But Arab leaders agreed that all Arab states have a common responsibility towards the Palestinians. We respected and honoured their commitment in this respect and this denied us parliamentary life in the past two years. Of course all these years there were many attempts to reach solution to the Middle East issue and other problems related to it, but all Arab and international efforts could not achieve tangible results that would secure the return of Arab land and liberate Arab people from Israeli rule. Finally, we witnessed attempts to destroy the PLO and this was the most crucial stage in the struggle of the Palestinians for regaining their homeland. In view of this we found it our duty and responsibility to meet with our PLO brothers because we have a common goal and common responsibility.

To Jordan the Palestine problem is one of life and death. It was our cause which we were honoured to fight for because we have been defending our Arab rights in line with the principles of the great Arab Revolt.

### Abrogation of Lebanon accord

Replying to a question on Jordan's stance towards the abrogation by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel of the U.S.-sponsored accord on Lebanon the King described the step as a positive development.

"The latest developments, we hope, would be positive... and a correct beginning," the King said. He said the agreement, cancelled by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel on Monday, was in effect a peace treaty.

"It had been imposed on Lebanon, its people and its government," he said, adding: "The picture will remain incomplete unless Israel withdraws from all Lebanese territory."

The settlement of the Lebanon-Israel issue, the King pointed out, should be within the framework of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem on a just and firm basis.

### Return to parliamentary life

Q: How do you evaluate political life in the light of the restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan?

A: Such measure was taken because we were in a constitutional dilemma threatening constitutional life had it been destined to continue. There is no truth in anything that tries to relate this step to an alternative for the Palestinian decision.

This step was very important because it contains the balance between the East and West Banks. We are now discussing with our brothers in the PLO to crystallise a new perception on the proper level to deal with the reality. We

are members of one family and all effects will bounce back at us whether they were negative or otherwise.

We have reached the best of the beginning of a balanced relationship which we should maintain.

Regarding the election campaign, I consider myself a friend and brother to all candidates. I hope that the winners will only be those who are capable, sincere and enlightened.

### Q: Will there be a new election law?

A: I cannot answer this question. He who says that we freeze the representation of the West Bank, is following Sharon's line saying that the problem is that of people not land.

### Iran-Iraq war

Q: How would the last battle on the Iraqi front affect the area?

A: Iraq is doing well on the front and we hope that the Iranian army will come to understand that the war does not serve its interests and will agree to negotiate on the basis of reciprocal respect. One of the main causes of the continuation of the war is Arab division. I believe Iraq will overcome all its obstacles and I hope the war will be over soon.

### Visit to U.S.

Q: What did your recent visit to the U.S. achieve?

A: It was an opportunity to let President Reagan hear from Arab leaders their views on the situation. I was there with President Mubarak and we discussed several issues. Arab return to solidarity and collective performance is inevitable, and I hope to see it come to reality soon.

## Chamber chief gives press conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the delegation from the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Michel Habib Deloncle, said that the chamber has been doing its best for the last 13 years to promote co-operation and to strengthen ties between Arab and French producers and markets through publishing trade and economic information about Arab countries in French industrial and commercial society.

Speaking at a press conference which he held Thursday morning at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, Mr. Deloncle reviewed Arab-French commercial relations and ways of promoting and strengthening them as well as introducing the Jordanian market to the French commercial market.

The chamber aims to acquaint Arab society with the technology and expertise which French businessmen can offer to Arab countries, while it also issues periodicals to the members containing information about foreign trade between France and Arab nations, Mr. Deloncle added.

## Saudi Arabian defence director leaves for home

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Saudi Civil Defence Department, Major-General Hashim Muhammad Abdul Rahman, and his accompanying delegation left Amman Thursday at the end of a five-day visit to Jordan during which they held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sulaiman Arar and Civil

Defence Director Maj-Gen. Khalid Al Tarawneh on bilateral relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia in the civil defence field.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, prior to his departure Maj-Gen. Abdul Rahman said that the talks were "positive and constructive."

## French exhibition aims to get archaeological work noticed

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The work of the many foreign archaeological teams digging in Jordan often goes unnoticed... and worse unnoticed. To try and redress this balance, at least on their own behalf, the French Archaeological mission in Amman last May put on an exhibition at the French Cultural Centre comprising colour photographs and detailed drawings

which gave a comprehensive idea of what the French mission was achieving all over the country. Extended, revised and re-written in Arabic, this exhibition is now being re-staged at the University of Jordan library.

The idea behind setting up the exhibition again was to allow the students at both the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University (where the exhibition is going to

## Deputies condemn Iran, seat election deadlocked

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Thursday condemned the "Iranian aggression" against Iraq and welcomed the abrogation of the May 17 treaty between Israel and Lebanon.

In a special statement issued by the house, the deputies strongly condemned "the continuation of Iran's aggression against Iraq which has ignored all Iraqi peace initiatives aimed at putting an end to the war."

The statement warned that the 41 month-old war will drag the area into regional polarisation and international conflict. The deputies called on the Arab countries "to assume their national responsibility in supporting Iraq", and to exert all efforts to solve the Iraq-Iran conflict through peaceful means.

The house also welcomed Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's decision to abrogate the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal Treaty signed last May 17.

The deputies expressed their full support for this "nationalist step" to scrap the May 17 treaty which, they said, "was imposed upon Lebanon under pressure from the Israeli occupation."

The statement also praised "Lebanon's determination to preserve its national unity and its Arab identity."

The new announced Israeli-Lebanese accord committed Israel to withdrawing its troops from Lebanon but gave Israel a role in policing the south of the country.

The Lebanese opposition viewed the accord as a violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon and demanded that President Gemayel scrap the treaty as a major condition for reconciliation.

Last week, after a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafez

Al Assad, President Gemayel conceded to the opposition their demands in the hope that it will pave the way for the resumption of reconciliation talks.

### Jerusalem seat

The Lower House also decided to postpone the election of a deputy to fill the vacant seat in the West Bank constituency of Jerusalem after three rounds of secret voting Thursday reached deadlock when neither of the final two contenders were able to obtain the 31 votes required.

The 60-member Lower House has equal representation from the West and East Banks, but since elections cannot be held on the West Bank due to the Israeli occupation, the members of the house themselves fill the vacant seats from the occupied territories.

Competition for the vacant Christian seat in Jerusalem proved to be very close with complicated procedural consequences.

In the first round of secret voting, in which three contenders participated, Dr. Suhail Khouri came first obtaining 21 votes, followed by Mr. Fadi Faraj with 14 votes and Mr. George Nozha with 11.

The second round of voting ended by a stalemate when both Dr. Khouri and Mr. Faraj obtained 22 votes, with two deputies abstaining.

A third vote was carried out in which Dr. Khouri received 24 votes and Mr. Faraj 21 votes. One deputy this time abstained from voting.

The withdrawal of one of the

contenders would have solved the problem but the Jordan Times has learnt that this will be unlikely.

Parliamentary sources explained that although the vacant seat is reserved for a Christian deputy, there has been a tacit agreement between the different sects that a Greek Orthodox should occupy it.

The former occupant of the seat, Mr. Emil Al Ghouri, who passed away last month, was a member of the Greek Orthodox church and many people think that the elected deputy should also be an Orthodox believer "to strike a sectarian balance" in the representation of Jerusalem.

Two weeks ago a number of representatives of "big families" in Jerusalem met and decided to nominate Mr. Faraj who is from the Greek Orthodox church.

Dr. Khouri, who is a Protestant, however proved to be strong competitor for Mr. Faraj.

The sources said that it is unlikely that either will withdraw since Mr. Faraj believes that he is responding to the desire of the Jerusalemites who nominated him and that this is an "Orthodox seat".

Supporters of Dr. Khouri feel that it is within his right to run for the Christian seat since there is nothing in the parliamentary election law concerning the co-fessional origin of the deputy.

The House decided to postpone the election until the next session which will be held after the March 12 by-elections to fill the eight vacant seats in the East Bank.

### Temporary laws

The House also referred to its Legal Committee a number of laws that were passed during the years in which the parliament was suspended and consequently are considered of a temporary nature unless ratified by the parliament.

## Radio staff receive medals

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Laila Sharaf distributed medals and prizes awarded by His Majesty King Hussein to the Radio Jordan director-general and long-serving members of its staff after it celebrated its 25th anniversary of service earlier this month.

The ceremony took place during a party held by Mrs. Sharaf at the Alia Art Gallery Wednesday evening on the occasion of the radio's silver jubilee.

Mrs. Sharaf awarded Radio Jordan Director-General Nasuh Al Majali the Medal of Independence of the First Order and Mr. Suleiman Al Mashtani the Royal Medal of the Second Order. Royal Medals also went to Mazen Al Qubba and Tawfiq Al Nimri.

The minister also presented merit prizes to a number of the radio staff.

## Health ministers' talks end

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Health Ministers Conference, which concluded its meetings in Damascus Thursday, has decided to issue \$50,000 from the Arab Fund for Health Development to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of the occupied Arab territories patients who are transferred for medical treatment abroad, Jordan's Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni said.

The conference also approved the draft Arab charter for a comprehensive approach to social development and a document on the strategy of the unified Arab World in the field of public health. It also approved the action plan of the Arab Health Ministers Council, added Dr. Ajlouni.

The conference, he further added, agreed to hold a number of meetings and special conferences on health and medicine in the Arab World and to co-ordinate in this field with the international organisations concerned.

Dr. Ajlouni, who headed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the conference which started in Damascus on Monday, said the conference had adopted a proposal to double the budget of the Arab Fund for Health Development.

Dr. Ajlouni said the conference asked the Arab health ministries to inform the drug manufacturing companies of the necessity to write all the information relating to medicines, especially in relation to their side effects and ways of dealing with them on the side of the packets.

Jordan, Dr. Ajlouni said, was charged with following up on establishing health centres in the occupied Arab territories in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the authorities concerned in the occupied Arab territories.

"It is, however, very difficult to know precisely what happened in this area," M. Humbert said, "as populations came and went in quick succession. At the beginning of the second millennia, for example, a lot of structures were built, but then strangely the area seemed to be quite deserted during the two ages — a situation that gradually improved until the huge and rich resurgence of activity in the Hellenistic and Roman periods."

This extremely interesting and well illustrated exhibition runs until March 10.

## Solidarity expressed with jailed women

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian women Thursday expressed solidarity with Palestinian women detained in Israeli prisons, and welcomed the abrogation of the May 17 accord between Israel and Lebanon.

A statement issued Thursday marking International Women's Day and signed by different women's organisations in Jordan said: "Jordanian women express solidarity with Palestinian women freedom-fighters detained in Israeli prisons."

The statement noted that March 8 marked the beginning of a strike eight months ago staged

by Palestinian women prisoners in Israeli jails in protest against inhuman treatment by the Israeli authorities.

The statement was distributed during a press conference sponsored by Jordanian women's organisations "in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian women in the occupied territories."

It said that "the abrogation of the May 17 treaty reflects the ability of the Arab people to confront U.S. policies and warships."

### Protest escalates

Mrs. In'am Abdul Hadi, the president of the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) and

who was the main speaker at the conference, explained that "the Palestinian women prisoners recently escalated their protest by starting a hunger-strike following the torture by the Israeli prison authorities who punished them for their refusal to continue to serve the hard-labour sentences imposed upon them."

She accused Israel of depriving the Palestinian prisoners of their basic rights as political prisoners. These include, she said, "the right to receive visitors, to read and walk in the open to take fresh air."

The Israeli treatment and "torture of the Palestinian women prisoners" provoked them into starting a hunger-strike, which led to a serious deterioration in their health," Mrs. Abdul Hadi said.

"Israel refuses to treat the Palestinian prisoners as political prisoners and only treat them as criminals," she said.

Mrs. Abdul Hadi emphasised that Israel had violated the Geneva Conventions concerning treatment of political prisoners.

She called for the confrontation of "the American-Israeli-Falangist axis which aims to divide Lebanon and impose American imperialist hegemony over the whole region."



Mrs. In'am Abdul Hadi (centre at desk) reads her speech at a press conference given here Thursday by Jordanian women (Photo by Youssef Al-Alban)

## Hussein praises Chinese stand

(Continued from page 1)

He said two basic conditions for a comprehensive Middle East settlement were Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since 1967 and legitimate national rights for Palestinians.

Following is the full text of the Chinese leader's speech at the banquet.

"We are most happy to come to the friendly Kingdom of Jordan on a state visit. When we set foot on your beautiful land, we were accorded a ceremonious welcome and generous hospitality by Your Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor and the Jordanian government and people. Now, His Majesty the King is hosting this grand state dinner for us and has just delivered a warm and friendly speech. All this gives full expression to the Arab people's tradition of hospitality and the profound sentiments of friendship cherished by the Jordanian people towards the Chinese people, which have touched us deeply. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep thanks to Your Majesty and convey the greetings and respects of the Chinese people to the Jordanian, Palestinian and other Arab peoples."

This is my first visit to the Middle East and a Arab country. It provides me with an opportunity to learn more about the heroic struggle carried out by the Palestinian and other Arab peoples for the recovery of their lost territories and restoration of their national rights. During His Majesty's visit to Beijing (Peking) last September, we had a full exchange of views on the Middle East issue. Six months have passed since then. Now the world situation has become even more turbulent. And the situation in the Middle East is all the more dangerous with the Middle East and Palestinian questions remaining unresolved. Obviously, this is mainly because the Israeli authorities, backed by a superpower, have refused to rec-

ognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, obstinately pushed their policy of aggression and expansion and refused to withdraw from the Arab territories they have occupied. These pervasive acts of theirs have increasingly aggravated tension in the Middle East.

"The Chinese government and people deeply sympathise with the Palestinian people in their misfortunes and firmly support the just struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples to recover their lost territories and restore their national rights. We have all along held that a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East question must include two basic conditions, i.e. the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories they have occupied since 1967; and the full restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. All the measures taken by the Israeli authorities in an attempt to change the population and geographical formation and legal status of the West Bank are illegal and null and void. We appreciate the positive efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people and promote unity among the Arab countries."

"Historical facts show that unity brings stability while division causes danger. We firmly believe that so long as the Palestinian and other Arab peoples, who have a glorious tradition of carrying out struggles, close their ranks and persevere in struggle, they will surely overcome the difficulties and hardships on their road to progress and realise their lofty goal."

"Your Majesty, Though China and Jordan are situated on the opposite sides of the Asian continent, one in the east and the other in the west, the ties of friendship link our two peoples closely. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, there

has been a rapid development of our relations in the political, economic, and trade fields and in service co-operation on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence.

"In its relations and exchanges with Jordan, China has consistently followed the principle of being sincere, open and above-board and honouring its word. The Kingdom of Jordan attaches importance to developing friendly relations and co-operation with China to which we express our appreciation. I wish to mention in particular that His Majesty King Hussein made two visits to China in spite of the fatigue of journey, and has thus made important contributions to the enhancement of mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. I would like to reiterate here that it is China's set policy to develop friendly relations and co-operation with Jordan and all the other Arab countries. This is not only in conformity with the interests of the Chinese and Jordanian peoples and the people of other Arab countries, but also conducive to the strengthening of unity of the Third World and the common cause of maintaining world peace."

"Your Majesty, I have come to your country with the purpose of enhancing understanding, learning from each other, deepening friendship and strengthening co-operation. I am convinced that my visit will be a complete success."

The banquet was attended by Their Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and his wife, cabinet members, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, senior officials, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, Jordan's Ambassador to China and China's Ambassador in Amman and their wives.



A photograph of a lion carved into the stone at Qasr Al 'Abd which forms part of the French archaeological exhibition here illustrating the wealth of such work in Jordan (J.T. file photo)

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By Franz Schurmann

## VIEW FROM AMERICA

## Americans fear movements born out of grievances

SAN FRANCISCO — Most Americans care little about what happens in other countries, so long as Americans are not being killed or things happen, like the oil crisis of 1973-1974 that affect the American way of life. But government officials, academic experts, heads of corporations do. They know that the U.S. depends on the world economy. If there are things wrong in the world, they know Americans will be badly affected.

What are these other Americans most afraid of in the world today? Is it Russian Communism? Absolutely not. Since Mr. Andropov died, they are being very, very friendly. And so is Mr. Andropov's successor Chernenko. Just a few months ago, American and Russian leaders were reviling each other in the worst ways. Now they seem so anxious to be friends... but with the sweat

of fear on their foreheads. "What are they both afraid of? Nuclear war? Unlikely. Even if U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons production is going way up, there is not the slightest chance that either superpower is contemplating war against the other. Nor is there any chance of a Soviet-Chinese war, or of the U.S. getting involved in Afghanistan, or of the U.S. deciding to "punish Soviet-Cuban aggressors" by invading Nicaragua. None of these things.

There is only one thing that makes the sweat of fear appear on American and Soviet foreheads. That is the possibility that pro-Iranian, Shi'ite governments could come to power in Iraq, Lebanon and even elsewhere.

The disintegration of the Lebanese army (which never amounted to much more than a Falangist-controlled force) is

regarded in the U.S. as a major foreign policy defeat. Syria is constantly portrayed as "an ally of the Soviet Union." But the real worry is that it is an ally of Iran. When pictures of Khomeini appeared in Beirut, it seemed as if the Shi'ites there and the Iranians in Baalbeck formed a menacing arm extending straight out from the residence of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran.

Why the fear? Is not Iran selling oil to the Pentagon? Does the U.S. really care about the mass executions in Iran, the persecution of Bahais, the imposition of a way of life entirely based on Khomeini's interpretation of Islamic Holy Scripture? Why should not the U.S. just do what the Shi'ites always did: deal with whatever government is in power and then keep on dealing and dealing until one found one ac-

cessible and corruptible spot? But the U.S. is not Britain. Despite its isolation by two oceans, the U.S. was always more scared of Communism than many countries much closer to the Soviet Union. We were terrified of Communism from the days of the Russian Revolution. We were terrified of Chinese Communism which had even less a capacity to affect us. Now we are afraid of the Shi'ite Revolution. Americans hardly even heard the word Shi'ite until a year ago, and already official statements, newspaper articles, cartoons are propagating the new fear.

Why? The popular fear needs no explanation. It is based on ignorance. But why the fear in government circles? The simplest answer is that the U.S. has only felt secure if there were foreign governments out there one could talk with, negotiate with. If we

could "reason" with them, then all kinds of problems could be resolved.

For a long time, we assumed Communists were not "reasonable". We saw them as fanatics who were like some creatures from outer space. Mr. Reagan himself thought so until recently, but may now have somewhat changed his mind. But now we seem to think that the Shi'ites are creatures from outer space. Since 1979, Americans have seen the bearded Khomeini with his piercing eyes as a strange figure. Now they have seen pictures of younger, bearded Muslim preachers in Lebanon.

American diplomats ask themselves: How can we talk with, negotiate with such men? And if some Lebanese Shi'ite leader seems "reasonable" on TV, then suddenly there is an urge to see him as the leader, the one

who can be talked with, negotiated with.

Despite our democratic traditions, American governments have always had a fear of movements growing out of popular grievances or aspirations. At home, we basically trust people. Abroad we distrust and fear them. We are afraid that the Islamic World is beginning to move and not just through its leaders who often were educated in Britain or the U.S.

In Lebanon, American warships sail up and down the coast. Israeli planes bomb. Syrians watch and wait. On the ground, anger that has been building for a long time builds up against the West with which the Falangists were so tightly linked. And there is no one on the "other side" to talk to, negotiate with for our State Department.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Thursday

## Al Ra'i: No secrets from the people

WEDNESDAY'S TELEVISION programme in which King Hussein spoke about the Arab Nation's issues and the developments in the region reached every citizen in every home. Jordanians who watched and listened to the King's views now realise that there are no secrets or double dealings but only straight-forward policy for Jordan with regard to its relations with Arab countries, the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war.

It was a democratic way of presenting the facts to the nation in a detail and clarity in which the King manifested the country's total commitment to the national Arab cause. We have come to understand better the progress of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, the situation at the Gulf war front and the situation in Lebanon. We now realise that co-operation with Arab countries is a must if we are to solve all our issues and achieve our goals and objectives.

## Al Dustour: A frank and direct statement

IN HIS statement by Jordan Television Wednesday night King Hussein tackled a number of Arab issues and developments in the Middle East region. King Hussein was, as always, frank and open minded and answered questions put to him by newspaper editors in a direct responsible way. He spoke about the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, stressing the importance of further bolstering ties between the two peoples, who are most affected by Israel's occupation and practices in the West Bank. He called for more efforts aimed at reaching a common formula that will serve as a nucleus that can attract co-operation from all the Arab states.

King Hussein expressed Jordan's sympathy with the Lebanese people and voiced concern over conspiracies hatched against Lebanon leading to partition and destruction. He urged the Arab Nation to work together to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war, which has been sapping Arab resources. The Iranian aggression, he said, is directed against all Arab states rather than the Iraqis alone. King Hussein's views were frank and detailed. He called on the Arab citizens everywhere to shoulder their responsibility and bolster the Arab ranks to strengthen their stand in the face of the enemy and the challenges confronting the Arab Nation.

## Sawt Al Shaab: Differences will persist

THE ABROGATION of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement will definitely not solve all Lebanon's problems. It used to be the main base of contention between the Beirut government and the opposition groups but the agreement was not behind all the differences and the conflicts including the civil war. The opposing factions in Lebanon differ on whether their country should be affiliated closely with the Arab Nation or go it alone and play an independent role from the Arabs.

However, the abrogation of the agreement will now mean that the Lebanese government will be more Arab oriented and will have to gear all its policies from now on in line with neighbouring Arab states. But factional differences are bound to persist because the struggle between the Lebanese themselves has always characterised the situation in the country and has affected their government's policies.

Friday

## Al Ra'i: An important visit

THE IMPORTANT visit to Jordan by the president of the Peoples Republic of China, Li Xiannian, and his wife Thursday derives its importance from the friendly attitudes China has adopted vis-a-vis the Arab cause and China's status in the United Nations Security Council, in addition to it being a superpower which is independent from the two international camps. The Chinese president's visit to Jordan comes at a time when our area is witnessing further Israeli practices subjecting it in danger, a matter demanding that all peace-loving nations unite all their powers to save the area and find a just solution in the Palestinian question so as to rid it from the attempts aimed at dominating it.

Nobody forgets the support given by China to the Arab Peace Plan when it received the Arab delegation which was charged by the Foz Arab Summit Conference to explain the project to friendly countries. Jordan and all the Arabs recall China's firm stands in the face of the Israeli aggressors. It is the only superpower which did not establish any relations with Israel.

The talks which started yesterday between King Hussein and the Chinese president is a good opportunity to bolster economic, commercial and technical relations between two friendly countries, relations which have witnessed remarkable progress through their short few years. The talks are an important occasion for renewing firm Chinese support for the Arab cause and for the upstaged Arab's rights. They stress that the just solution to the Palestinian question is the main ultimate demand which must not be delayed. China, through its honourable stands towards the Arab cause and through its diplomatic and economic relations with the Arab World, which are based on mutual respect, has been able to win the appreciation and confidence of the Arabs. Therefore we hope that the visit of the Chinese president will strengthen the relations between China and the Arabs in general, and between China and Jordan in particular. We, while welcoming Mr. Chinese guest, renew the call to exert further intensive efforts to lay down the pillars of just peace in the area. We hope that China will exert its distinguished effort to strengthen the international efforts and push them towards the sought goal.

## Sawt Al Shaab: Meaningful reciprocity

KING HUSSEIN'S speech in the local press lays down the basis for a meaningful approach, which makes dialogue between the leadership and the press a democratic window for strengthening national interaction. The dialogue constitutes a channel through which world events and national policies, in addition to our comprehensive attitude on various issues, can be explained. This policy makes our press face up to its responsibilities, both as one of the main methods of outlining our national stands, and as a means for identifying the firm national values in our political line. The dialogue between the leadership and the press is at an advanced stage of openness which reflects our belief in our policy positions and our pride in the stands of our leadership and our country. King Hussein is keen to put the Jordanian-Palestinian relation and the cohesion between the Jordanians and Palestinians in its historic framework.

Therefore the search for a solid basis for understanding based on a comprehensive view of the attitude, which does not stem from a narrow regional view, but from our national interest, makes the Jordanian and Palestinian stand the cornerstone of the national stand, and makes the joint suffering of the Jordanians and Palestinians a motivation for mobilising the people within a national stand capable of elucidating the circumstances surrounding our national cause. King Hussein outlined Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the initiatives and solutions on the grounds of a comprehensive view and attributes the failure of the efforts to finding an acceptable solution to the lack of a comprehensive view of the Palestinian question. King Hussein sees in the U.S. policy in the area a major misconception for it has started trying to remedy the impact of the Palestinian question on the Arab area based on a flawed view of things which it based on dividing the national issue and liquidating the Palestinian question through partial solutions.



Arab News

## Long-store'd Bush emerges as force in Reagan's foreign policy, campaign

By Lou Cannon

WASHINGTON — After three years of virtual anonymity, Vice President George Bush has emerged as President Ronald Reagan's chief surrogate in foreign-policy crises and his political point man in the developing presidential election campaign.

"Bush has been the soul of defence, and he still is," a senior White House official said last week. "But he is emerging as a forceful person who commands respect in the White House and has the full confidence of the president."

Mr. Bush's key role in foreign policy, evident to insiders for many months, became starkly clear during the second week of February with Mr. Reagan on the road in Nevada and California and with the Lebanese army disintegrating.

Chairing the administration crisis management body, the Special Situation Group, Mr. Bush proved he was more than a mediator in the meetings that led to the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut.

## Advocated Marine withdrawal

Instead of merely guiding the discussion and defusing alternatives, as he had often done in the past without revealing his own views, Mr. Bush became an advocate for removing the Marines from Lebanon, according to administration officials. With the Lebanese government apparently on the verge of collapse, Mr. Bush sided with the Pentagon and said that safety of the Marines must be given the highest priority.

It was Mr. Bush who decided that no announcement should be made of the withdrawal until Feb. 8, when Mr. Reagan would have been on his California ranch. The vice president was talked out of this at the last minute by his friend and ally, James A. Baker 3d, the White House chief of staff, who had been told by Larry M. Speakes, the chief White House spokesman, that news of the withdrawal already had leaked to the television networks.

Two days after he came down on the side of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Mr. Bush sided with Secretary of State George P. Shultz in opposing Mr. Reagan's attendance at the funeral of President Yuri V. Andropov of the Soviet Union. Mr. Reagan agreed and sent Mr. Bush to represent him with a conciliatory message to the new leader, Konstantin U. Chernenko.

## "Deputy president"

The Soviet leaders treated Mr. Bush as an important emissary — and he is so regarded by nearly

everyone in the White House. One official said that Mr. Bush was so much of a presence during the Special Situation Group meetings in Mr. Reagan's absence that he functioned as "kind of a deputy president," an assumption of authority that Mr. Bush himself has been careful to avoid.

Last week, in a congressional leadership meeting, Mr. Bush's overall performance and particularly his efforts in Moscow were praised lavishly by the man many say they think will be Mr. Bush's chief rival for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988 — Howard H. Baker Jr., the Senate majority leader and a member of the U.S. delegation to Mr. Andropov's funeral.

Three days after his mission to Moscow, the vice president plunged enthusiastically into the political duties associated with his office by representing the administration in a show-the-flag speech in New Hampshire. In Concord, he held a press conference at which he gave a briefer but more effective defence of administration policies in Lebanon than Mr. Reagan was able to make in a press conference five days later.

In his three-hour visit, Mr. Bush also conducted four television interviews, met with Republican fund raisers and addressed a Reagan rally where he cheerfully denounced the "woeful eight" Democratic candidates and zeroed in on the front-runner, Walter F. Mondale, who, Mr. Bush said, had authorised a new toll-free telephone service called "Dial-a-Promise."

## Disinclined to nastiness

This is the sort of innocuous material of which Bush campaigns are made. "Whatever else George may do in this campaign, he isn't going to get nasty," a longtime Reagan Republican observed. "It's just not his style."

James Lake, the Reagan campaign's press secretary, calls Mr. Bush "the main surrogate, who will be on the cutting edge of all our efforts."

Mr. Lake also gives Mr. Bush much credit for healing wounds within the party and claims that, as a result, "there is now less divisiveness among Republicans than at any time in the past."

Mr. Bush's political strengths are in many ways the opposite of Mr. Reagan's. Unlike the president, Mr. Bush remembers names and is eager to understand state and local political situations. Mr. Reagan's briefers look for ways to reduce the material given him; Mr. Bush frequently asks for and gets additional information.

But even the most ardent of Mr. Bush's admirers acknowledge that he is no equal to the president in

most of his stump speeches, let alone in a television address. And his patrician background and "preppy" manner limit his appeal with working-class voters, as they did in the 1980 primaries.

"Let's face it," said a Bush associate who admires him. "He's an elitist and always will be, and people recognise that."

The Bush slogan in 1980 was "Elect a president you won't have to train." Intended to point out his considerable experience in foreign affairs and Mr. Reagan's lack of it.

And it is in foreign-policy matters that Mr. Reagan appears to have the most confidence in his vice president. While neither Mr. Reagan nor Mr. Bush has revealed the substance of their weekly luncheon meetings, at which no aides are present, the belief in the White House is that they have focused primarily on foreign policy.

"He has given Reagan the benefit of his experience and subordinated any agenda he may have had," said one White House official. "The president knows that Bush will represent him in any crisis."

The key to the personal compatibility between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush, according to those who know them, is that for all their differences they are both intensely self-confident and optimistic. "Reagan," said an aide, "knows who he is — and so does Bush."

Mr. Bush's foreign policy credentials include terms as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations and U.S. representative to China. Early in May, Mr. Bush is to visit Japan and is expected to return with some trade concessions that could prove useful for the administration in defusing protectionist sentiment in an election year.

## Opposition from Shultz

Mr. Bush's new role has not made everyone fully comfortable. When he was made chairman of the crisis management group early in the administration, Alexander M. Haig Jr., who was then secretary of state, opposed the move.

Last week, Mr. Shultz was rattled by Mr. Bush's role in the withdrawal of the Marines, which the secretary of state had long opposed.

Mr. Shultz reportedly also resented the role Mr. Bush has played in Central America, where Mr. Reagan sent him to warn the Salvadoran government against further human rights violations.

From the beginning, Mr. Bush has enjoyed an unusual advantage in his dealings with the White House because of his friendship with Mr. Baker, the chief of staff, who managed his 1980 campaign against Mr. Reagan. Both men were sensitive about exploiting

their friendship and even more sensitive about conservative attacks on the "Baker-Bush connection."

But some of this sensitivity has eased, at least for the vice president, as Mr. Bush has demonstrated loyalty to Mr. Reagan and performed political chores for conservatives. Outside the White House, Mr. Bush has won the praise of such conservatives as Joseph Coors, a brewer who is instrumental in raising funds. Inside, Mr. Bush sidestepped the ideological battles and territorial feuding and wound up on good terms with both the ideological and pragmatic factions.

## Unusual degree of co-operation

Mr. Bush's insistence on being self-effacing and never criticising Mr. Reagan, along with his support from high White House aides, has created an unusual atmosphere of co-operation between the two staffs. The Reagan and Bush campaigns are integrated and Mr. Bush's schedule is announced regularly in the White House briefing room by Mr. Speakes.

Even one of Mr. Bush's most persistent critics on the right, Richard A. Viguerie, a conservative publisher and fund-raiser, acknowledges that Mr. Bush has been a loyal vice president.

But Mr. Viguerie maintains, and there are a number of conservatives who would agree, that this by no means certain that Mr. Bush will become the automatic heir apparent if Mr. Reagan wins a second term and serves through 1988.

Mr. Viguerie believes that Mr. Bush has not repudiated his differences with Mr. Reagan on taxes and such social issues as abortion and school prayer, and that he would be unacceptable to conservatives once Mr. Reagan is no longer a political force.

The difference with the president that is best remembered is Mr. Bush's 1980 campaign reference to Mr. Reagan's "voodoo economics."

Mr. Bush's first response when this was raised struck even some of his own people as Reaganesque — he denied that he had said it. After a tape recording confirmed that he had used the phrase, Mr. Bush provided another response, which he repeated last week in Concord.

The "voodoo economics" line, Mr. Bush says now, became passe when Mr. Reagan, in September 1980, proposed an economic programme that included spending reductions as well as tax cuts. It is a convenient political answer that overlooks Mr. Reagan's historical advocacy of cuts in government spending. — The International Herald Tribune.

## U.S. sceptical on Warsaw Pact proposal

By Jeffrey Antevil  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is taking a cautious public stand on the Warsaw Pact's proposal for mutual cuts in defence spending, but privately officials see little chance it will lead to an East-West agreement.

Administration officials said it was premature to comment on the proposal, made public by the Soviet News Agency (TASS) Tuesday, because Washington had not yet had time to study the official text.

But it seems clear from private conversations with officials, that the United States views the idea with considerable scepticism and believes it was intended to reinforce a Soviet peace image at a time when Moscow is refusing to resume negotiations on nuclear weapons reductions.

The plan calls for token military spending cuts by all NATO and Warsaw Pact nations, a three-year freeze at the new lower levels, and negotiations for large-scale cuts later.

It also proposes simultaneous spending reductions by the four nuclear powers in the two alliances — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France — calculated as a proportion of their Gross National Products (GNP).

Administration officials said a similar proposal was made at a Warsaw Pact summit last year and was included by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in his speech to the East-West disarmament conference in Stockholm in January.

The major U.S. objection to mutual defence spending cuts is the extreme difficulty of verifying that East European governments, with their highly secret budget processes, are complying with any agreement, Western officials allege.

The Soviet Union, for example, has publicly listed its annual military budget at around \$25 billion in recent years. But U.S. and NATO analysts say the true figure

is up to 10 times that. Moscow says defence spending accounts for around 2.7 per cent of its GNP, but most Western analysts put the figure at 14 to 16 per cent.

U.S. intelligence agencies and academic experts, moreover, have differed sharply among themselves as to the proper way to compute arms spending in a centrally planned economy where goods and services do not have clear dollar equivalents.

The Soviet Union, for example, fields about twice as many men and women in uniform as the United States, but it pays them much less than the U.S. all-volunteer army.

Thus a budget computation based solely on Soviet pay scales would greatly underestimate the true size of its armed forces.

There are also problems over whether to use official Soviet exchange rates for the rouble, which peg it much higher than its real value compared to the U.S. dollar.

As a result of these differences the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said last year Soviet military spending was growing at an annual rate of two per cent, while the Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency said the rate was around seven per cent.

CIA analysts said that unlike their Pentagon counterparts their growth figure took account of inflation in the Soviet Union, but several outside experts said this could not be calculated with precision in a centrally directed economy.

If the U.S. intelligence community is unable to agree on how much Moscow spends on defence, administration officials are also troubled by the phrase in the Warsaw Pact proposal for spending cuts in proportion to GNP.

Since U.S. GNP is roughly double the Soviet Union's, they believe the proposal could require Washington to cut its spending twice as deeply as Moscow even though, by Western calculations, the Soviet Union spends much more on arms.

## Ozal faces competition

By Emel Anil  
Associated Press

ANKARA — Only four months after winning power through general elections, Premier Turgut Ozal and his Motherland Party face a crucial political test in local polls on March 25.

The local elections will have no direct bearing on the makeup of the 400-seat, one-house parliament elected for a five-year term. Mr. Ozal's Motherland Party commands a 211-seat majority in the legislature.

But, a poor showing by Mr. Ozal's party could make it difficult for the new premier to push his ambitious economic and social programmes.

Only three parties were allowed to enter the November elections — The Motherland Party, the Leftist Populist Party and the Conservative Nationalist Democracy Party.

But this time, the parties barred from the general elections under military orders will also be fielding their candidates.

The Nationalist Democracy Party was favoured by the military but it finished third, way behind the Populist Party which became the main opposition with 117 seats in parliament.

It was Mr. Ozal's Motherland Party which pushed through the parliament a local election bill allowing all other parties with national organisations to join the race.

Three additional parties qua-

lified, including the Social Democracy Party and the Conservative True Path Party, which is viewed as a continuation of former Premier Suleyman Demirel's now defunct Justice Party.

Political analysts say failure by Mr. Ozal's party to do equally well in the local polls, despite increased competition, could prompt demands by other parties for early general elections.

They would argue that the Nov. 6 election, because it was closed to many parties, did not reflect the "free will" of the people, the analysts say.

These parties would have no legal means to force early elections but they could hammer on the issue constantly, making it politically difficult for Mr. Ozal to govern.

Mr. Ozal himself has often said he needs broad popular support in order to fashion his far-reaching programmes aimed at establishing free-market economy in a country where state domination in industry and restrictive state controls on every phase of economic activity have been the norm for half a century.

The 57-year-old premier appears confident, predicting that candidates from his party will win most of the 1,967 contested mayoral positions.

Recent public opinion polls support his claim. Two polls, published by Istanbul dailies Hurriyet and Milliyet this week, showed the Motherland Party leading with about 35 per cent of the votes.





## Talking straight Marwan Muasher

WHAT I am writing about today may be both disturbing and controversial. It is certainly disturbing to me, and I am sure it must be at least to the Arab reader. No scrutiny of any language, indeed hardly of anything, is particularly flattering. For together with the positive aspects it points out, it also reveals what many people prefer to keep hidden even from themselves. When a subject that sits at the core of our character such as the Arabic language is discussed, such a scrutiny becomes particularly sensitive.

You can therefore probably understand my apprehension and unease writing about this subject. In doing so, however, I do not claim to present concrete answers. I do not have any. My aim is to pose questions, at times rather frank, and often disturbing, about our language which to a considerable extent forms our very character. I hope to start a dialogue that attempts to deal with the positive, but especially negative characteristics of the Arabic language, and suggest possible changes and courses of action.

The impact of culture on any language is rather obvious. In the case of the Arabs, this effect has been clearly manifested throughout our history. In pre-Islamic times, the harsh desert life of a Bedouin Arab society was clearly reflected in the language, which was tough, guttural and difficult. During the Arabs' rule of medieval Spain, the more permissive nature and easier life gave the Arabic language a smoothness and a sense of musicality it had not known before. And the age of decadence that loomed over the Arab World for many centuries afterwards, produced a literary style that stressed musicality and rhyme more than it did content.

But what I want to concentrate on is the converse phenomenon: That of the effect of the Arabic language on our character and behaviour as Arabs. Without going into details of how language is created and the role culture

plays in that creation, I want to address the question of how much influence language exerts on culture, even if it might very well have been originally created by that culture.

It is important at this point to distinguish between two forms of Arabic: Written or "literary" Arabic; and spoken or colloquial Arabic; and in the process give a background of a very important aspect of the Arabic language, one that will prepare the ground for later discussions. Few languages possess this vast difference between their spoken and written forms. Whereas an Arab is expected to use classical Arabic in all his writings, as well as in public speeches, he is almost ridiculed if he uses this form of Arabic in everyday life. For that matter, an Arab will use colloquial Arabic, which differs greatly from one Arab country to another, and to a lesser extent from city to city.

Spoken Arabic, which by far is the more commonly used, has no formal grammatical rules. In fact, any Arab would find great difficulty trying to write in spoken Arabic, and in doing so would have to create his own rules, or insert words borrowed from spoken Arabic between quotation marks.

Whereas spoken Arabic is used in everyday life by illiterate and literate Arabs alike, written Arabic is reserved for the most serious subjects. An Arab intellectual finds himself often borrowing from written Arabic when conversing on serious subjects such as literature, philosophy, or politics. One might say that spoken Arabic deals with the tangible experiences of everyday life, while written Arabic is more amiable to more abstract subjects.

This difference between the two forms presents a big dilemma. Because spoken Arabic is in direct contact with everyday experiences, it has the chance to absorb new words and meanings created not only by technology, but also by the more complex ways of life, more readily. Thus, while an Arab finds little problem absorbing and using new words to describe say the electrical appliances in his house, such a description is more difficult, if at all possible, in written Arabic.

There are those who use the analogy of Latin and modern Romance languages to describe the difference between spoken and written Arabic. They point out that Latin was the language used by the learned of Europe in the middle ages, and that the various European dialects, which were derived from Latin, later developed into the modern European languages of today, which have not only outgrown, but replaced Latin altogether. These people go as far as suggesting that the local Arab dialects will also someday replace classical Arabic.

Critics of this theory quickly point out that this analogy is hardly appropriate. For one cannot completely differentiate between spoken and written Arabic. While it is true that each has different fields in which it is being used, it is also true that written Arabic is used considerably in everyday life through newspapers, radio, TV, and all published literature. Therefore, people are still largely exposed to this form, as well as the fact that written Arabic is affected by daily experiences, albeit at a slower rate than spoken Arabic. It is therefore hardly at a standstill, and cannot be judged to be a dead language like Latin.

The subject of "newspaper Arabic" deserves some attention here. The term is given to a special form of Arabic that is a combination of classical and spoken Arabic. It still loosely abides by the grammatical rules of written Arabic, although it is simple enough to be understood by most Arabs. However, the illiterate would probably still miss some meanings. This form is used in newspapers, many books, and also in spoken form by TV and radio announcers, as well as most public speakers. It is a formula that has certainly helped bridge the gap between the two forms of Arabic, and also bring the dialects of the Arab World closer together. But whether it will evolve to replace both spoken and written Arabic remains an open question.

In describing both forms of the Arabic language, I have hinted at the fact that classical Arabic is developing at a somewhat slow rate, such that its modern form is not all that different from that known to the Arabs before and at the time of the emergence of Islam. While there are some "external" reasons as to this conservatism of classical Arabic, there are also some "internal" reasons behind this state of affairs, meaning that the Arabs themselves have been reluctant to change their literary form of language.

The first reason is religious. The Holy Koran uses classical Arabic as its medium, and thus any changes in classical Arabic run the risk of changing the Koran's language to a point where it is not understood anymore. Moreover, Arabs look at the Koran as the final authority on the Arabic language, an ideal example they should try to emulate rather than diverge away from.

Another reason is the Arabs' literary heritage. One of the Arabs' greatest achievements in human arts has to be their literature. Due to certain characteristics in the Arabic language, the Arab reader derives his pleasures reading Arabic literature not only from the content of that literature, but also from its linguistic form. To change classical Arabic means to lose much

of the beauty of this literature through translation to a more "modern" form of Arabic. An analogy in English literature would be the fact that Shakespeare's plays are still studied in their original English form for probably the same reason.

Modern Arab nationalism has also had its effect on keeping literary Arabic in its original form. Classical Arabic is a strong factor that binds together all countries of the Arab World. To allow it to change or be replaced by local Arab dialects means to lose one of the strongest arguments for Arab unity. Thus, the Arabic language is as vital to Arabism as it is to Islam.

During the rise of Arab civilisation in the 8th and 9th centuries A.D., the Arabic language was largely successful in absorbing all of the Roman and Greek civilisations (through "Arabisation"). However, one must remember that those civilisations were already dying, meaning that the process of Arabisation had a well-defined task ahead of it. This is in addition to the fact that the Arabs at that time were the power to reckon with. Obviously, "Arabisation" from a position of strength is far different from one out of weakness.

Since the middle ages however, the European culture had witnessed a steady and continuous progress, allowing the European languages ample time to develop and absorb all the new meanings that were the product of a changing culture. The Arabs, meanwhile, had plunged into a decadence age where the Arabic language as well as culture witnessed an almost total standstill. Only recently has the Arabic language begun to pick up again and to catch up with its European counterparts. It still needs time before all the new meanings are sharply defined through continuous usage. Moreover, the process of Arabisation faces a more difficult task now, as it is drawing from continuously changing civilisations rather than ones that have reached their peak and died away. What took the Europeans more than four centuries to absorb into their languages is being forced upon the Arabic language in one blow. Further, these new meanings have arisen out of experiences that the Arabs have not yet gone through, and some that may not be relevant to their culture. The process of Arabisation as it stands today, while being hailed as the first step towards emancipation from colonialism, might very well be just the opposite: a continuing dependence on foreign experiences, a process that depends solely on the outside rather than a movement that has its roots in the Arab culture.

Whatever the case, the unfortunate fact, I believe, is that the Arabic language in general, and classical Arabic in particular, in its modern form, lack the ability to express new meanings that have occurred in life as we know it today. An Arab intellectual finds the need to continuously insert foreign words in his conversation, a phenomenon that is often mistaken for a sign of showing off, when it is simply the result of a lack of an Arabic expression that conveys the thought in one's mind fully.

This is then the first characteristic of the modern Arabic language, call it what you will. But it is a vagueness about the language and its implications that arises from either the lack of words to describe the new meanings, or from the creation of new words whose meanings are not sharply defined due to insufficient usage. This vagueness has also contributed to a misunderstanding between Arabs and other nations, due to each party's use of words that mean different things in each other's language.

An example is in line here. Take the word "romanticism" as used in literature, for which the Arabic language has adopted the word "romaniyya". "Romaniyya" is used in the wrong context, or at least in a vague context. In Arabic, "romaniyya" in English signifies a well-defined meaning, that of a complete philosophy or school of thought with several characteristics. In Arabic, the word means only certain characteristics of this concept, such as the love of nature, rather than the outlook itself. This is due to the fact that modern Arab writers who have used this style did not yet go through the full experience that European romanticists had gone through, and thus their understanding of romanticism is incomplete.

It can be said, then, that this "vagueness" of the Arabic language is not due to an inherent weakness, but rather because it does not have the strength coming out of long use. It can also be said that such strength is being acquired gradually as the modern Arab nations are just beginning to go through experiences that Europeans have already acquired, and others that are particular to the Arab culture.

Another characteristic that could tie to the idea of vagueness is that of repetitiveness. The Arabic language is full of synonymous phrases, three or four adjectives modifying the same word, and several forms of assertion (Tawkid) and exaggeration (Mubalagha). In fact, a literary translation of an English passage would appear to rob it of much of its meaning unless the Arab translator adds some assertion and exaggeration symbols and phrases. The words "inna" and "qad" are quite common in our writing. The interesting theory

behind this repetitiveness is this: Where words of a language do not have clear meanings, one feels one has to repeat oneself to clarify what one wants to say. The other part of the theory is that average Arab has a certain vagueness of thought stemming out of the vagueness of language, and thus in repeating himself is trying to better explain his ideas not only to others, but to his own self as well.

Several writers have referred to the "atomism" of the Arabic language. The meaning of the term here is that Arab writers often deal with subjects locally without integrating them into a well-defined overall picture and without following a logical sequence or build-up. This is best exemplified in classical Arabic poetry, where each verse is almost a complete unit by itself, and where one can often juxtaposition verses without much (if at all) affecting the overall meaning. Some people say, however, that this "atomism" can be attributed to the Arab mind rather than the Arabic language. Arabs sometimes tend to be local in their thinking, but that could be because of our education system, where logic is hardly emphasised in our school training. The results are obvious, as several examples, especially from our political life, point to a short-sightedness which we have often exhibited.

The Arabic language is still considered to be too emotional and flowery to be objective. Arabs still give too much attention to the sound combinations of words and their musicality to the point where the meaning often does not anymore as long as the rhetoric is perfected. Instead of moulding their words to fit their thoughts, Arabs often engage in the reverse process: that of moulding their thoughts to fit the words, at an obvious compromise with regard to meaning.

The question is raised again here of whether this is an impact of language on culture or vice versa. It is probably a combination of both. We should not also forget that Arab philosophers of the past such as Al-Farabi, Ibn Rushd, and Al-Ghazali all used an Arabic language that was logical, factual, and essentially non-emotional.

The Arabic language is also a highly structured language, with an elaborate set of grammatical rules that few Arabs can muster. As such, it is accused of being too rigid. When an American writes "thru" in place of "through", he is taking liberties with the English language that causes not to much uproar. No Arab can take such liberties with Arabic grammar without being totally denounced. A highly structured language is a stable language. However, it also runs the risk of being too stable, with little room for change and development. As almost any word in Arabic has to be derived from a verb, several new words find dif-

ficulty getting assimilated into the Arabic language, precisely for the lack of originating verbs.

Classical Arabic poetry is a case in point of the over-emphasis on structure. It is governed by 16 metres, one of which has to be used in a poem, and no more than one can be used in the same poem. This places a heavy burden on the poet, who often has to either compromise or mould his thoughts to fit this rigid structure.

In modern times, several Arab poets have revolted against this highly structured form of poetry, and have rid themselves almost completely of any meter. This modern, or "free" Arab poetry, as it is called, was and is being fiercely fought by traditionalists, although it is safe to say that more Arab poets than not use this free style today, and that there are very few good Arab poets writing in the traditional way. It is also interesting to note that almost all young Palestinian poets, who probably find the old style too confining for their emotions, write in this new free style.

Poetry, of course, is not just emotions. It is also an art. One in general does not write poetry in a state of emotional excitement. Rather, one writes in a quiet mood that may follow such a state. Robert Frost, the famous American poet, once noted that writing free verse is like playing tennis without

a net. In other words, it lacks regulations and a reference frame. What modern Arab poets are trying to develop though is an artistic form that does not compromise emotions. All indications seem to show that this is the future trend in Arabic poetry. Perhaps the plight of Arab poets is also that of the new Arab generations, which are also fighting to rid themselves of rigidity and closed-mindedness in Arab societies.

How do we free ourselves from the negative aspects of our behaviour induced by our language? Or maybe the question should take another form: Can we free ourselves? Every indication shows that we can. There does not appear to be an inherent weakness in the Arabic language, only a present one due to a long halt in progress of our civilisation and culture. Through continuous use and open minds about our and other cultures, the Arabic language will no doubt be better prepared to face the challenges of modern-day societies. The process is necessarily evolutionary, and one with huge implications on the Arab character and the changes that will occur in that character. Change is inevitable, however, and it is up to us to accept it and direct it for our good. It is, in my opinion, the biggest challenge that we face today.

## Free education ruins Malta's private schools

By Joseph Scicluna  
Reuter

VALLETTA — New rules on tuition fees planned by Dom Mintoff's government could bring the end of Malta's mostly Catholic-run private schools.

Before the next school year starts in October the government is expected to withhold operating licences unless tuition is made free of charge, as in state schools.

This could be the decisive blow against Malta's already embattled private schools, largely dependent on tuition fees for economic survival.

Malta's senior deputy prime minister and education minister, Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, said last month the government did not want to allow education "to become a business concern."

He also said it intended to make free tuition a condition for licensing schools and would try to enforce this in secondary schools before the start of the next school year.

In this island state, with a population that is 90 per cent Roman Catholic, the moves are widely seen as part of Mr. Mintoff's efforts to reduce the influence of the church, which government members call one of Malta's largest property owners.

The ruling Malta Labour Party committed itself to free education, in a manifesto published shortly before it won the last election in 1981.

Labour politicians, still bitter over a seven-year ban on the party in the 1960s when — as Mr. Mintoff's supporters see it — estrident society, have said they want church property socialised.

Religious orders run 72 private schools, from kindergarten to pre-university classes, with an enrolment of nearly a quarter of Malta's 400,000 pupils.

The church says that any government action forcing it to finance private education would take about one million Maltese pounds (\$2.6 million) a year from church coffers, in addition to the 1.3 million (\$2.6 million) already paid for teachers' salaries.

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## Algeria, Egypt threaten to dominate African soccer

**BOUAKE, Ivory Coast (R)** — Algeria tumbled defending champions Ghana out of the African Nations Cup Thursday night and joined Egypt as the leading contenders for the succession.

The two North African sides are so far the only teams to be sure of their places in the semi-finals after playing two of their three round robin group matches — and winning.

Nigeria, seemingly certain to book passage after beating Ghana 2-1 in the opening match, fumbled their way to a somewhat lucky draw against Malawi in the other Group B match Thursday and will have to take a point against the rampant Algerians on Sunday to make sure of going through.

Malawi play Ghana immediately after the Nigeria-Algeria clash and on Friday's form no Nigerian is going to sit through that game comfortably with the possibility that the East Africans will win, join the Green Eagles on three points and make goal difference the key to a semi-final place.

The Algerians, Africa's heroes in the 1982 World Cup in Spain looked very good Thursday night and it will take an exceptional

team to beat them. In Group A, being played in Abidjan, the decisive game to decide who goes through to the semi-finals alongside Egypt comes on Saturday when hosts Ivory Coast clash with Cameroun.

Both have been beaten by Egypt while crushing hapless Togo and with both having the same goal difference only a win will avoid the nail-biting drama of a drawing of lots to decide the lucky side.

On form, Cameroun ought to be favourites, but with the fanatical home fans in full voice, Cameroun, Africa's other representatives in Spain, are going to need all their experience to contain a fast, punchy Ivory Coast side.

With only one of the eight matches played so far — Thursday's meeting of Nigeria and Malawi — producing a draw, the odds are on a decisive encounter.

Those eight matches have also produced 24 goals, so if Bouake's

thin crowds are reproduced in later stages without Ivory Coast, the fans are going to miss something if the stay at home.

Like the Egyptians, they defend in depth and break quickly on the counter-attack, throwing six or seven men forward.

Several times Thursday night, and particularly when second half substitute Tedj Bensaoula scored their second and decisive goal, they put together fluid six and seven-man moves that sliced through the Ghanaian defence.

That is not good news for the Nigerians who were severely embarrassed by a young Malawi side whose Scots coach Danny McLennan admits their first concern is to entertain the crowd and their second is to learn from more experienced teams.

If they lose to Ghana on Sunday, as they are expected to, it will be a pity that the Ivory Coast crowds will get to see no more of Malawi's gifted young left-winger Clifton Misiya.

He tormented a Green Eagles defence which has let in few goals over the last year, but in the end was relieved to get away with a 2-2 draw.

## Watford have Wembley in sight

**LONDON (R)** — After a week of frantic European activity, the traditional giants of English soccer will be taking supporting roles this weekend when the quarter-finals of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup are played.

The less fashionable sides from Plymouth, Derby, Sheffield Wednesday and Notts County will steal the limelight as they fight for the chance of a place in the semi-finals, while the likes of Manchester United, Tottenham and Liverpool return to first division action.

With second division promotion favourites Sheffield Wednesday entertaining first division Southampton in a live televised quarter-final on Sunday, the pick of the round on Saturday is the high speed clash of Birmingham and Watford, the two form sides in the first division.

Both teams have been in devastating form recently, Watford scoring a hatful of goals and Birmingham defending with an enormous physical resolution.

Both teams also prefer the direct style of play that has been scored by supposedly more sophisticated teams and rely on a regular and rapid service to the forwards. The prospects for a cliff-hanger packed with incident are good.

But Birmingham will be keen to avoid the sort of incidents that marred their victory over West

Ham in the fifth round when crowd invasions halted play for more than 10 minutes and resulted in an F.A. commission punishing both clubs with suspended two-year bans from the tournament.

Watford, whose great run ended in defeat at Leicester last week, have recalled their injured striker George Reilly. His height and power in the air is needed against the Birmingham defence. Reilly resumed training only on Tuesday and manager Graham Taylor admits he is taking a big gamble.

The Watford manager has also been forced to change his defence, Steve Terry replacing central defender Steve Sims, who broke his ankle at Leicester.

The most romantic quarter-final is the Plymouth-Derby tie which ensures at least one lower division side reaches the semi-finals.

Plymouth, from the third division, beat first division West Bromwich in the last round, but second division strugglers Derby can count on the experience of former internationals Dave Watson and John Robertson to see them through to at least a replay.

In the remaining ties League Cup finalists Everton visit fellow first division side Notts County and championship challengers Southampton travel to Sheffield Wednesday.

## Sparetime sports schools — birthplace of China's champions

By He Zhou

**PEKING** — It was a misty morning in 1982 when Hu Hongfei, a little-known athletics instructor from a Shanghai sparetime sports school, bumped into an "ugly boy" on one of his routine talent-hunting cruises around the city's schools.

The boy looked conspicuous in the swarm of hilarious pupils, lanky, long-limbed and over half a head taller than his peers.

Hu's experience told him that with this unusually tall stature, here might be a future high jumper "swan", and he lost no time tracing the youngster to the school authorities and to his home, only to find out that the nine-year old Zhu Jianhua was the most unlikely sports star he could have chosen.

The fifth and youngest child of a transport worker, he was so weak and pampered that he took almost no part in sports at all, except for an occasional game of pingpong. Worse still, his mother was thoroughly against the idea of Zhu practicing highjump at first.

But Hu, interested in the family's largeness of stature, persisted, finally talking the mother into letting him train the boy according to an unconventional programme.

After ten years of arduous training under Hu, Zhu Jianhua, now 20 and 1.94 meters tall, fulfilled his mentors' expectation by breaking the world highjump records of 2.36 and 2.37 meters successively within three months in 1983. Hu and the boy are now the nation's most renowned sports heroes.

Today in China, 15,300 sparetime sports instructors like coach Hu go on routine talent hunts, and many have experience with handicapped gifted youngsters who have made their dreams of glory come true.

A survey conducted in December 1982 by the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission of China's 12 best provincial sports teams shows that 90 per cent of the sportsmen and sportswomen in these teams are graduates from sparetime sports schools. Another survey shows that 59 of 73 medalists at the Ninth Asian in New Delhi are students of these instructors.

Acc spike Lang Ping, "diving queen" Chen Xiaoxia, gymnastic champion Li Ning, world pingpong king Guo Yuehua — all

have trained at one time or another under these instructors. In today's China, hardly a single name in sports can be found without a background of sparetime sports-school education.

Generally, the way to the world championships is not cheap, sometimes as expensive as \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year as was the case with world class sportsmen and women from the west like former world figure skating champions Randy Gardner and Tai Babilonia of the United States. But surprisingly enough, China's sparetime sports instructors charge nothing for coaching, and the cost of making of a superstar in China is not as high as in the west.

What makes this all possible is China's gigantic system of sparetime sports schools.

In 1955, China began to set up its own experimental sparetime sports schools in the large cities of Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai, where physical culture was more popular and sophisticated than other places in China.

After nearly 30 years of construction, China now has over 2,600 sparetime sports schools plus 389 sports majors scattered all over the country and accommodating 236,300 trainees.

The rationale behind the establishment of these schools is that sports talent should be discovered as early as possible and should be trained through a systematic programme so as to bring the potential into full play. Since the average Chinese family, with a monthly income of about 60 yuan (about \$3: per employee, could hardly afford such a programme, the state has to step in to help, both financially and administratively. Furthermore, since the youngsters should not be stripped of their academic education, sports training has to be done in their spare time.

Governments at various levels take it as their responsibility to provide the facilities, pay the professional instructors and even give the students free sports gear and subsidies for a more nutritious diet. On average, to a student who goes through the 12-year training programme from the first grade in primary school to the third grade in highschool, they would pay 8,500 yuan (4,250), all apart from the cost of the facilities and payment for the trainers.

The number and variety of the facilities in these schools vary with different financial resources, but

all are equipped with at least the basic training facilities — small gyms, track courses, basketball, volleyball and football courts and omni-present table tennis rooms.

The curriculum in each school includes nearly all sports though usually emphasises some. In 1981, a group of experts, under the sponsorship of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission, worked out a standard training programme for all the sparetime sports schools in the country, which they compiled into books to cover gymnastics, swimming, basketball, volleyball, football, table tennis, badminton, weightlifting, figure skating, speed skating and ice hockey.

The schools are each run by 20 to 70 professional coaches, of whom most are physical culture institute graduates and some of whom have been prominent sportsmen themselves.

Training sessions usually start in the afternoon after the students finish their academic studies in regular schools and last two to three hours until dinner time. In many schools, students board on the campus and also take part in morning training before school time.

Although handpicking as with high jumper Zhu Jianhua is common, the enrollment is generally on a voluntary basis. Since many young Chinese long for a free systematic training and cherish the dream of becoming a sports star someday.

When admission time comes, once in summer and again in winter, hundreds of young sports fans ranging in age from 5 to 15 line up in front of test halls to vie for a place among the "chosen" few. Only the most promising and talented are allowed in.

Besides passing a test, the candidates need their schools' recommendation and their parents' approval. All things being equal, the ones with good scholastic and conduct records are more likely to be admitted.

Once recruited, the students are encouraged to follow strictly the ascetic regimen and stay with the programme to the end, although the initial hardships of body conditioning and limits to talent cause some students to dropout.

After some years of training the youngsters begin to participate first in regional or provincial, and then in national contests. When they are in good shape and skilled enough, no matter what grade they may be in, they are selected to represent their home provinces or even the nation.

Training normally finishes when the students complete high school. Then some go to study at institutes of higher learning, some enroll in physical culture institutes, and others go out to work. These schools, on an average turn out more than 40,000 graduates a year.

Sparetime sports schools have contributed so much to the recent upsurge in Chinese sports that the official Physical Culture and Sports Commission awarded "sports honorary commendation" to many of them, including Zhu Jianhua's Shanghai Nanshi District Sparetime Sports School.

Though a college student now, Zhu Jianhua still prefers to compete under the instruction of his mentor, Hu Hongfei. "The sparetime sports school is the birthplace of my athletic life," says Zhu. — China Features.

## YWO committee visits Irbid

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Role of the Youth Centres in Irbid town was discussed Thursday during a meeting between Irbid Governor Turki Al Hindawi and a working group from the Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO).

The YWO working group visited Irbid, Ramtha, Turra and Hartha and met with supervisors at the youth centres and exchanged views about the various activities. The working group had visited Mafrak Tuesday and met with Mafrak district governor and chairman and members of Mafrak municipality.

The YWO working group consists of Assistant Director General of the YWO, Akram Vassarreh and head of the centre's division Abdul Aziz Al Nis.

## Wimbledon prize money increased

**LONDON (R)** — The total prize money on offer at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships this year will be more than £1 million (\$1.49 million) for the first time, the All England Club announced here Thursday.

The winner of the men's singles title will collect £100,000 (\$149,000) and the women's singles champion will win £90,000 (\$134,000) in a package of prize money that totals £1.46 million (\$2.04 million).

For defending singles champions John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova who have a chance to win both singles and doubles titles, this means Wimbledon now offers the richest pickings on the world circuit.

McEnroe could collect a total of

£140,000 (\$196,000) if he is successful in both events, while the women's number one stands to pick up at least 50 per cent more than was available last year.

The increases, 45 per cent for men and 50.7 per cent for women, will continue in future, too, according to the All England Club chairman Buzzer Haddingham.

He said 13 per cent of the increase was due to the depreciation of sterling against the dollar and he added: "I can't see the day coming when they say that's enough — we won't go any higher... why should there be a limit if inflation goes mad?"

Haddingham said he was confident this year's tournament would produce a bigger surplus than the £2.75 million (\$3.85 million) of last year.

## W.Germany to give Olympics grants

**FRANKFURT, West Germany (R)** — West Germany is to give sports grants this year to 350 athletes forming the nucleus of the national team for the summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The "Sporthilfe" institute, which allocates grants, will pay out between 12 and 15 million marks (\$4.8 to 6 million) this year, the organisation's executive director, Guenter Pelschenke, said Thursday.

Sporthilfe, funded mainly by the sale of special stamps, a national lottery and by commercial

and private donations, was set up by the West German Sports Federation (DSB) 17 years ago.

Pelschenke said the institute had spent 140 million marks (\$56 million) to help thousands of sportsmen in this period.

Several leading sportsmen, including decathlon world record holder Juergen Hingsen and Carlo Traenhardt, who recently set the world's best indoor mark for the high jump, are to receive a long-playing record of 16 songs to boost Sporthilfe's funds.

## McEnroe, Lendl into quarter-final

**BRUSSELS (R)** — World number one John McEnroe and his main challenger, Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, cruised into the quarter-final of the \$195,000 Belgian Indoor Tennis Championship Thursday.

McEnroe mercilessly disposed of Yugoslav Marco Ostojic, still

suffering from leg and elbow injuries received in a Davis Cup match two weeks ago, 6-1, 6-2.

Lendl swept past Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-4, 6-2. The Swede broke back once after being 5-1 down in the first set but was blasted aside at 5-4 and the second set was a virtual formality.

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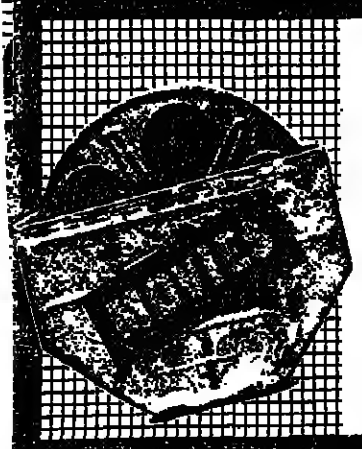
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(Colour)  
"Indian film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Cinema **RAINBOW**  
Tel: 25155

**THE BEAST MASTER**

Performances: 3:30-6-8:30

Cinema **ZAHARAN**  
Tel: 23171

**NIGHTINGALE**  
(Colour)  
"Italian film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Cinema **BASMAN**  
Tel: 30126

**TEXAS LIGHTNING**

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Cinema **PALESTINE**  
Tel: 22117

**1- NAKAK HALAL**  
Amitabh Bachan  
"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema **RAGHADAN**  
Tel: 22198

**PUKAR**  
"Indian film"  
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8



## IOR to pay \$250m in three parts to settle entanglement

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican bank has agreed to pay \$250 million in three instalments as its part in a settlement of debts left by the failed Banco Ambrosiano, informed church sources said Thursday.

The Vatican was soon expected to acknowledge officially its role in the settlement, they reported. Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, a member of a commission looking into church administration, said last week he expected the Vatican to sign an agreement with Ambrosiano liquidators Thursday but cautioned that it could be delayed.

Under the agreement the Vatican bank, known as the Institute for Works of Religion (IOR), would make three payments at six-month intervals. It was not clear how soon after the signing the first payment would be made. The sources said the payments

were not just a goodwill gesture by the Vatican, but a practical means of closing one of the most disturbing chapters in the Vatican's recent history.

Under the agreement the IOR, which owned part of the Ambrosiano bank but has always denied moral or financial responsibility for its failure, would be protected from future lawsuits and the freezing of IOR assets outside the Vatican.

With the accord, which does not imply any guilt by the IOR or its president, the Vatican considers the affair closed, the church sources said.

Italian officials have said the IOR was responsible for some \$1.3 billion in Ambrosiano debts but the Vatican claimed Roberto Calvi, the Ambrosiano president, who was foudged hanged in London in 1982, abused the IOR for a "secret project."

The sources said the IOR would raise money to meet the instalments in three ways: Loans from international banks, the selling of Vatican shares in Italian companies, and loans from the American and West German Catholic churches.

Under the agreement the IOR, which is not subject to Italian banking regulations, would retain its autonomy.

But church sources have said Italy wants to reach an understanding with the IOR to regulate informally its operations in Italy and limit the number of Italians who can use the bank.

Well-informed Vatican sources said some cardinals in the commission suggested that the IOR allow external auditors to look at its books and make the audit public.

They also suggested that the IOR, which was set up to handle banking accounts for religious orders but later became involved in income-generating ventures, should hire more lay banking experts.

## Foreign buying of Swiss real estate declines

BERNE — Foreigners bought much less real estate in Switzerland last year, partly because of tighter official restrictions, the government said Friday.

Foreign purchases of Swiss houses and plots fell to 2,495 in 1983, 20 per cent less than the year before and well below a 1980 peak of nearly six thousand.

Popular resentment against overcrowding by foreigners, mainly West Germans, will be tested in May when the Swiss vote on a right-wing proposal which would effectively block all foreign buying.

In 1980 the government tightened controls by setting a ceiling on the number of foreign-owned weekend homes permitted in some tourist areas. Falling foreign demand because of the recession in Europe was also a factor behind last year's decline, the government added.

## Key OPEC committee starts market review

VIENNA (R) — An Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) watchdog committee met Friday to review the world oil market amid signs it will recommend that pricing and output policies stay unchanged.

The market monitoring committee of OPEC usually meets once a month to assess the oil market.

However, a meeting planned last month was cancelled to give the committee time to study the effects of winter weather in North America on oil demand.

The committee chairman, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Said Al Otaiba, said he would recommend that OPEC maintain the \$29 a barrel basic price and 17.5 million barrels a day (b/d) output ceiling agreed at an emergency conference in London a year ago this month.

"I don't think we should touch the ceiling. In other words I think we should keep it as it is. The same with the price," he said Thursday.

The other members of the committee are the oil ministers of Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela. Nigerian Oil Minister Tam David-West is attending as an observer.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted Friday as forecasting sharp oil price rises if supplies from the Gulf were halted by the Gulf war.

He appeared to be referring to Iran's threats to close the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf if Iraq disrupted Iranian oil exports.

In a lecture in Dhahran, published in Friday's Saudi newspaper, Sheikh Yamani said the war had to end sooner or later.

"If sooner, and this is what I hope but do not expect," there would be a further oil surplus, since both Iran and Iraq would increase their exports because of their need for cash, the papers quoted him as saying.

Sheikh Yamani said the present oil glut would continue until 1985 but there would be a significant rise in consumption from 1987.

The rise would be met by increased production, half of it from members of OPEC and half from non-OPEC producers.

He said that for oil demand to increase, prices should be frozen until 1986.

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Use in minor disruption.

On the other hand, the United States should make early use of its strategic petroleum reserve to quell market panic that even a relatively minor supply disruption might cause, Energy Secretary Donald Hodel said Thursday in Washington.

Mr. Hodel said he agreed with International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Ulf Lantzke, who recently urged the IEA's 21 member countries to use their oil stocks during minor cut-offs.

"You can postulate, therefore, a modest interruption to which we decide we are going to make the

strategic petroleum reserve available early on," he told reporters.

An agreement among IEA members, which include the United States, requires the oil-importing countries to share supplies if at least seven per cent of the non-socialist world's oil supply is cut.

This would involve some 3.2 million barrels a day of the world's daily consumption of 45 million barrels — more than the current combined daily output of Iran and Iraq whose war has threatened to disrupt oil supplies through the Gulf.

In a less severe disruption, the United States could decide to quickly pump oil from its 357 million barrel reserve of crude oil for a limited period of time, Mr. Hodel said.

"If we concluded that there was going to be a million or two million barrels a day shortage for 30, 45, or 60 days, it seems to me that we would schedule a strategic petroleum reserve sale to pick up our share of that," he said.

It would take about 24 days for the flow of the oil to begin once the decision to use it had been made, "plethora of time to prevent a shortage."

"The availability of the reserve and the decision to use it will free up private stocks which would otherwise be held because of the uncertainties of what will happen," Mr. Hodel said.

One difficulty in deciding when to use the reserve would be confirming that disruption had occurred and determining its severity and possible duration.

When Iraq recently said it had attacked targets at or near Iran's Kharg Island oil port spot oil prices rose sharply.

## Argentine inflation soars

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine prices rose by 17 per cent in February, taking the annual inflation rate to a record 408 per cent, the national statistics institute said Wednesday.

The government had forecast a February rise of only 10 per cent and bankers and economists said the bigger increase had dealt a severe blow to the government's economic programme.

Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun blamed the February figure on a sharp rise in meat prices during the month.

He has been trying to reduce inflation by announcing at the beginning of each month interest rates, wage rises and public sector tariff increases in line with forecast price rises. However, wide-ranging price controls have failed to hold back food prices. Fresh meat rose 30 per cent in February, vegetables 45 per cent and fruit 27 per cent.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1984

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After some upset in the morning, you find that you are able to get out in the world of activity. You are quick-witted and able to handle whatever emergencies may now arise.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be careful in driving in the morning. Handle problematic affairs connected with correspondence. Be tactful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't commit yourself to some heavy investment in the morning. Take time to make improvements to property. Be sensible.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You see exactly how to use both your mind and hands well toward some constructive purpose. Friends can be helpful to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't lose your temper at home after breakfast and cause trouble there; quietly study your desires.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Don't dash out on some silly tangent; then you can benefit. Contact good friends and join them in some mutually pleasurable hobby.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't berate one at home in the morning; then you can go out and handle important matters well. Contact a bigwig for a favor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan your day carefully and then you get much done. You find that one of a different culture can be most helpful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have many tasks to perform so don't get discouraged. Exercise or take some treatment that builds up your vitality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Seek out good friends and have fun together and relieve tensions. Take some time to perfect some talent you possess.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Sidestep one who likes to criticize you; then you can get into enjoyable activities. Cooperate with a co-worker.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Morning is apt to be rather strange, but later you can take that risk that will bring you good results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Some thoughtless remark at home should be ignored and then there will be more harmony and understanding. Be happy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will have to be carefully watched so as not to get into trouble, but upon reaching adolescence will go on the right path and stay on it for the rest of the life and be very active and brilliant.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed firmer on balance after a quiet session and at 1500 the F.T. 30 share index was up 3.2 at 840.9, dealers said.

Lloyds Bank closed 17p up at 614 having touched 627 after full year results in line with market expectations, a higher dividend and a one for five scrip which buoyed the banking sector. Other banks firmed with Barclays 12p up at 564.

Government bonds closed with gains of up to 1/2 point after a very quiet session and gold shares ended below best levels, dealers said. North American stocks were mixed.

ICI was 2p off at 576. Glaxo gained 23p to 810 while fresh speculative demand lifted T.L. group to 278 from 264. P and O rose 10p to 299 awaiting the Monopolies Commission report on the Trafalgar House bid. Unilever fell 10p to 925.

In mixed oils, Shell was 8p down at 628. Life insurances were also mixed after higher openings and in mining financials, RTZ rose 13p 667 and Cons Gold added 8p to 607 in response to some U.S. demand, dealers said.

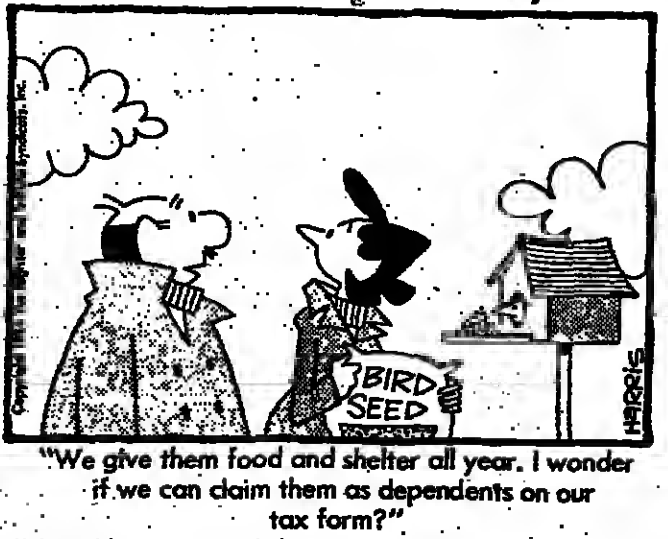
## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4615/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2670/73	Canadian dollars
	2.5735/45	West German marks
	2.9035/45	Dutch guilders
	2.1262/72	Swiss francs
	52.70/75	Belgian francs
	7.9320/50	French francs
	1601.40/1602.40	Italian lire
	224.10/25	Japanese yen
	7.6690/6740	Swedish crowns
	7.4575/4625	Norwegian crowns
	9.4075/4125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	401.25/401.75	U.S. dollars

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYBSA

LOVEC

DYFLAG

CHABRE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: ON THE ... OF IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SMOKY ABOVE RATIFY FALTER

Answer: If you break an arm, someone might have to make this for you — THE "BREAK FAST"

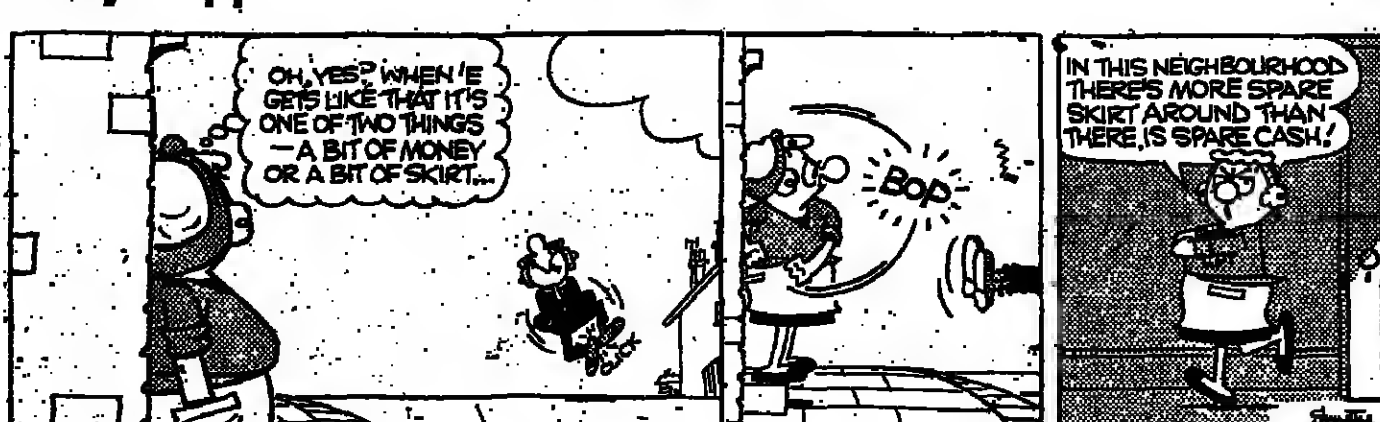
## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE Daily Crossword

by Manny Miller

ACROSS

1 Plays the lead

6 Night before holiday

9 Residents of: suff.

13 Fortune teller's card

14 Sp. unit of length

16 Spina org.

17 Edict

18 Sister of Ares

19 Urbanites

20 Freight fees

23 Snake-like

24 — street (rich)

25 Benjamin nr Nathanael

28 Stained

31 Bib. verb

32 Furthermore

33 Sods

37 "Peekaboo!" — you!

38 Pelvis bones

40 Il. coin

41 Firma or resort

43 Vikki the singer

44 Doing business

45 Meantime

47 Secondhand

48 King's "— dream"

51 Sleeps briefly

53 Assumes

59 "— a kick out."

60 Mala student group

61 Abandon

62 Vandalism

63 Stringed toy

64 Colo. ski resort

65 Sandarac

66 Creving

67 River to the Rhone

15 — in the dark

21 Schlaepfrell and others

22 Dill

25 Partella

26 Allaviate

27 Young or old end

29 Actor Homolka

30 Conn. city

34 Tears

35 Gratis

36 Beach stuff

38 Protective covering

42 Donkeys: Fr.

46 Confectionary item

48 "— far better thing..."

49 Ishmael's mother

50 Klipping's wall

52 — Lama

54 "— plate" (suite of Montana)

55 Entertaining Martha

56 Record

57 Always

58 Sandy tract in Eng.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1 FAKER

2 Solact

3 Soviet

4 WW II novelty song

5 Eydlie's partner

6 All over

7 Differ (suite of Montana)

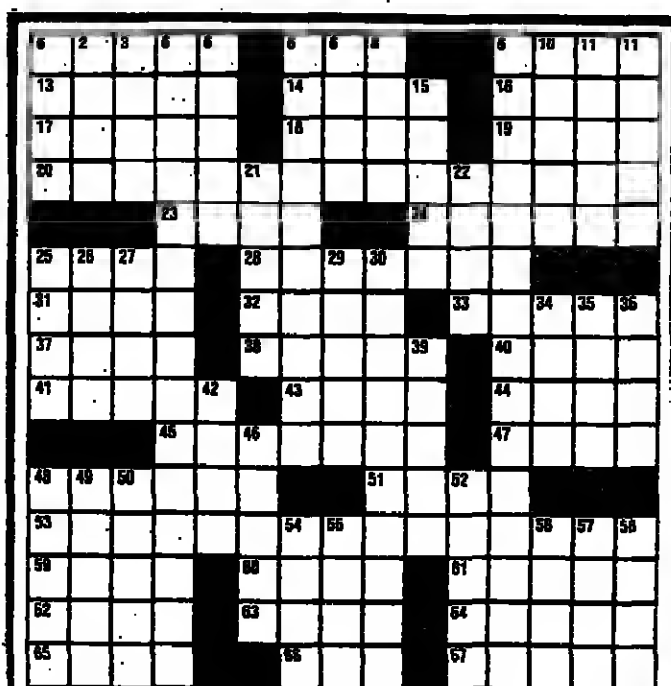
8 Clapton or Ambler

9 Skepticism

10 Subarctic forest

11 Colo. park

12 Impudent



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# Cruise missile deployment exercise starts in U.K.

LONDON (R) — The first deployment exercise of U.S. cruise missiles in Britain began early Friday when a convoy under U.S. command left an air force base at Greenham Common, the Defence Ministry said.

The convoy did not carry nuclear warheads, a spokesman said. He would not disclose whether it was transporting unarmed missiles or simply the vehicles used as mobile launching pads for the medium-range rockets.

Women camping outside the base 80 kilometres west of London in protest against the missiles said they saw a launcher driven out.

The Defence Ministry said the convoy was commanded by officers of the U.S. Tactical Missile Wing although British Air Force personnel were also taking part in the exercise.

The missiles are intended to be moved around quickly by road in event of war to hide their location. But the authoritative British mil-

itary magazine Jane's Defence Weekly said in January the women protesters besieging Greenham Common had effectively locked the missiles into the base.

This had forced officials to postpone their first training exercise, Jane's said.

The first 16 low-flying cruise missiles in Britain became operational at Greenham Common on Jan. 1, four years after NATO decided to deploy 572 cruise and Pershing-2 medium-range nuclear missiles in five European countries in response to SS-20 missiles in Western Soviet Union.

Three days ago bailiffs sent by the local council evicted some of the "peace women" at Greenham Common, using a giant crushing machine to destroy tents, but

some of the protesters returned to sleep in the open.

Bruce Keot, secretary general of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), said early Friday:

"There is a plan in operation at the moment to obstruct these vehicles in non-violent ways from continuing this deployment exercise if and when they are found, although of course we know perfectly well we do not have the physical means to prevent their transit."

The convoy returned to the base after three and a half hours driving around southern England, a senior police officer said later.

Witnesses said the convoy comprised one missile transporter, which was not carrying a missile, and other military vehicles.

The women protesters outside Greenham Common told reporters about 90 police surrounded them just before the convoy left the camp and prevented them from intervening.



Senator Gary Hart, continuing his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, is mirrored by a campaign poster during a stop in Birmingham, Alabama (AP wirephoto)

## Hart winds up drive to end Mondale's hopes

MIAMI (R) — Democratic presidential cootender Gary Hart Friday wound up a whirlwind tour of southern states aimed at demolishing the candidacy of former Vice-President Walter Mondale in a critical round of balloting next Tuesday.

Mr. Mondale who lost the last three contests to Senator Hart in New England, must put up a good showing in the "super Tuesday" votes if he is to rescue his faltering bid for the presidency.

Nine states will hold primary elections or party caucus votes on Tuesday, five of them in the south. "With your help I intend to be the next president of the United States," Mr. Hart told applauding

crowds in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, three big states that will be the main battleground.

The size and enthusiasm of the crowds demonstrated the excitement which his campaign has generated over the past few weeks.

Another boost came Thursday when the Gallup Poll Organization said that a telephone poll of 719 registered voters gave Mr. Hart a nine-point lead over President Reagan.

Mr. Hart's sweeping victories over Mr. Mondale in the New Hampshire primary and Maine and Vermont caucuses hadly upset the campaign by Mr. Mondale, whose nomination was seen

as all but certain a few weeks ago. A leading Democrat, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, has said that unless Mr. Mondale wins half of the contests on Tuesday his candidacy will be in serious trouble.

But Mr. Hart may be held back in securing the electoral sweep of the south that he achieved in New England because his sudden success has taken him and his electoral organization by surprise.

Given little chance of scoring well in the south a few weeks ago, he has fielded a slate of only about 40 per cent of the 88 delegates to the Democratic Nominating Convention who are at stake in Florida.

## Gandhi anxious to solve Punjab crisis

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said Friday she was anxious to solve the Punjab crisis and urged a halt to violence in the state.

Mrs. Gandhi said in an interview with the state's main Punjabi and Hindi language newspapers, the Dainik Tribune and the Punjabi Tribune, that she was searching for an end to a militant 19-month-old Sikh campaign for political autonomy and religious concessions.

"I have never refused a dialogue. But there is no surety that (the Sikhs) will stick to any solution arrived at," she said. "But it is necessary that the killings should stop. Attempts to spread feelings of hatred should also stop."

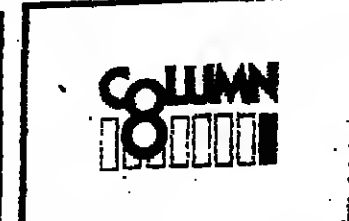
The latest bout of violence halted talks between the government and the Akali Dal last month. They had resumed after a year's gap.

Asked why she did not take a personal initiative in resolving the crisis, Mrs. Gandhi said she had repeatedly made her position clear.

"After all to what extent can I go. I can issue an appeal keeping in view the security of the nation provided it evokes a favourable response," she said.

The prime minister, who is facing a major challenge from Sikh militants in the sensitive territory bordering Pakistan, said some people in Punjab were opposed to a solution.

"The opposition (parties) and the newspapers are inciting them against me," she said.



## Old timers' robbery goes wrong

SAO PAULO (R) — Two 70-year-old burglars who attempted to rob a house in Sao Paulo found age had caught up with them when the occupants returned unexpectedly. The one inside the house was too deaf to hear the warning of his friend acting as a look-out in the street, police said, while the look-out had a heart problem and was not fit enough to escape.

## Britain's beer consumption rises

LONDON (R) — Britain's beer consumption rose last year for the first time since 1979, thanks to a sizzling summer, the Brewers Society reported Thursday. Chairman Charles Tibbitts said Britons drank 38.3 million barrels (11.03 billion pints) of beer in 1983, 1.3 per cent more than 1982.

## Mauritanian premier sacked

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania President Mohammad Khouma Ould Haidalla Thursday took over the day-to-day running of government when he sacked his prime minister. An official announcement said Lieutenant-Colonel Ould Haidalla, who has ruled Mauritania for six years, had also taken over as defence minister, a post hitherto held by outgoing Prime Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya. There was no explanation for Ould Taya's sacking.

## Crocodile scares sewer workers

PARIS (R) — Startled sewer workers called in the fire brigade Thursday after they narrowly avoided stepping on the tail of a young crocodile found strolling amiably through the dank, dark corridors of the Paris sewers. Fire officials said 10 men bound and gagged the robust reptile and took it from a sewer conduit near the Pont Neuf in central Paris to a zoo at the nearby Jardin des Plantes, a public garden on the left bank of the River Seine. They said the crocodile was presumed to be a pet whose owners grew tired of it.

## City shuts road for toad hop

BONN (R) — The West German city of Hanover will shut one of its roads to night traffic for the next month to let toads hop to their annual breeding pond in safety. A city spokesman said in past years cars on the 1.5 kilometres road squashed thousands of toads instinctively heading back to the pond where they were born.

## China hopes to control hepatitis-b

PEKING (R) — China hopes that it can make all its children immune to the killer hepatitis-B virus by the year 2000, the New China News Agency Friday reported. Professor Wang Juntao said in an article written for the weekly magazine Outlook that, since the virus could be separated and cultivated in the laboratory, it should be possible to develop a live vaccine. Prof. Wang, associate professor at a Peking hospital for infectious diseases, said improved living standards and better sanitary conditions would help curb the disease, which is spread through human waste.

## India seeks seabed mining area

NEW DELHI (R) — India has asked the United Nations to allot it a pioneer area for seabed mining, a government minister told parliament Friday. The minister of state for ocean development, Shivraj Patil, said that after deep sea surveys India had located a suitable area for mining in the central Indian Ocean. India applied last January to the U.N. International Seabed Authority to be allotted a pioneer area, he said. A pioneer area gives a country exclusive mining rights covering up to 150,000 square kilometres, officials said. India is a signatory of the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention which gives the seabed authority control over mining outside territorial limits.

## Hanoi calls for concessions on Kampuchea

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach called Friday for concessions and compromises from all sides over Kampuchea.

He told reporters on arriving in Bangkok on the way to official visits to Indonesia and Australia that in the search for a peaceful solution to the Kampuchean conflict "both sides must make concessions and compromises."

"Now is the time for fair negotiations and a peaceful settlement. It is not the time for pressures," he said.

But he stressed the concessions must not infringe on Kampuchea's rights to independence, sovereignty, non-interference, self-determination and peace.

Mr. Thach ruled out a unilateral

withdrawal by Vietnam from Kampuchea. He said a pullout would only be possible if China ended its threat against Vietnam and the peace and security of the Kampuchean people were guaranteed.

Hanoi said its security was threatened when it sent troops to neighbouring Kampuchea to overthrow the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge headed by Pol Pot in 1979.

The Khmer Rouge, blamed for widespread massacres during nearly four years in power, are now allied with two non-Communist factions in a coalition fighting to end Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea.

Asked if Hanoi would consider United Nations peacekeeping forces replacing an estimated

180,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, Mr. Thach replied: "Never, as long as the U.N. recognises Pol Pot."

The Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition holds Kampuchea's seat at the United Nations.

In reply to a question, Mr. Thach said various proposals on resolving the Kampuchean problem should be considered without exception.

"If we like to negotiate seriously and effectively we must accept to discuss all the proposals of all the sides," he said.

He said he would not propose any new initiatives during his visits to Indonesia and Australia but emphasised Vietnam would be ready to discuss any possible option for a peaceful settlement.

## Human rights groups accuse U.S. of failing to respond on finding

NEW YORK (R) — The Reagan administration has been accused by three human rights groups of failing to respond to its own findings on abuses of human rights.

The monitoring groups said the State Department's 1983 report on human rights, published last month, contained several examples of political bias and was at times misleading.

The three groups, the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights, Americas Watch

and Helsinki Watch, said the administration had "shown little interest in shaping its policy to conform to its own findings of fact."

But they praised the department's assessment of reports on some countries, including China, Cuba, Poland, South Africa and the Soviet Union.

Reports on eight other countries — El Salvador, Honduras, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uruguay and Zaire — contained language

which revealed political bias, the groups said.

The groups said in their critique of the State Department's findings that reports on governments friendly to Washington used words like "allegations," "charges" or "claims" even when the evidence about abuses was overwhelming.

In contrast, complaints of abuses in countries hostile to the United States such as Cuba, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union, were endorsed as "credible."

## Malaysia's anti-drug units are on alert

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Drug enforcement agencies in Malaysia are on full alert following a bumper harvest in the Golden Triangle, a senior police officer said Friday.

The triangle, a remote mountainous region straddling the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos, is one of the world's major drug-producing areas.

Mohammad Yassio Ibn Haji Jaafar, deputy director of the police anti-drug unit, said intelligence reports indicated that in mid-January some 600 tonnes of opium had been harvested in the area.

This could be converted into 60 tonnes of heroin or morphine and smuggled via Thailand to the Malaysian market and then re-

exported overseas, he added. Malaysia has long been an exit point for drugs from the Golden Triangle smuggled to Western Europe and the United States.

"All anti-drug units have been placed on alert, especially those at the border with Thailand, from where most of the drugs are smuggled into Malaysia," he said.

## 2 Armenians jailed for 20 years

BELGRADE (R) — Two Armenians were each sentenced to 20 years jail by a Belgrade court Friday after being convicted of killing the Turkish ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Maroutian, Levonian, 23, and Rafi Elbakian, 21, were found guilty of killing Ambassador Galip Balkar in an ambush in central Belgrade exactly a year ago and wounding his driver.

Mr. Elbakian was additionally convicted of fatally wounding a Yugoslav student while trying to flee the scene of the attack.

Mr. Levonian, who was shot and wounded by a policeman at the attack, was also convicted of attempting to kill a retired army colonel who grappled with him in the aftermath of the ambush.

Both men had admitted assassinating the Turkish envoy and wounding his driver but denied the other charges.

The trial, which began on Dec. 6 and was suspended for three weeks last month, was held amid the tightest security in the Library of a Belgrade Prison Hospital. Mr. Levonian is paralysed from the waist down.

The attack on the Turkish ambassador was claimed by an Armenian commando group calling itself "the Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide."

## India to start fencing Bangladesh border

NEW DELHI (R) — Work on a fence along India's eastern border with Bangladesh to prevent illegal immigration will start this year, Indian Home (Interior) Minister Prakash Chand Sethi said.

Mr. Sethi told parliament Thursday he could not give an exact date but the defence was expected to be complete in about four to five years.

Bangladesh's military ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad has criticised the fence plan, saying it might harm relations between the two countries.

But Mr. Sethi said Bangladesh had not lodged protest although the matter was raised during a visit to Dhaka by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao last year.

In Calcutta, the Chief Minister of Assam state, Hiteswar Saikia, said fencing of the state's border with Bangladesh would start this month.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) News Agency quoted him as saying it would cost about 5.30 billion rupees (\$530 million) to fence the entire length of India's 270 kilometre border with Bangladesh.

## Supreme Soviet to choose new president

MOSCOW (R) — The newly-elected Soviet parliament will meet for the first time on April 11, it was announced Friday, and diplomats said it may name a new president.

This, they said, would shed light on the configuration of power within the Kremlin since party leader Konstantin Chernenko took over nearly a month ago.

The first session of the new Supreme Soviet was announced by its president, the head of which carries the formal title of president, a post left vacant since the death of Mr. Yuri Andropov.

It will be up to the Supreme Soviet to fill that post by formally approving the person named to it by the politburo.

Whether or not Mr. Chernenko is named depends on how strong his personal position is within the leadership and an accommodation he may have been forced to make with his rivals for the party leadership he was given on Feb. 13.

He given the ceremonial title which was granted his two predecessors Yuri Andropov and Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr. Andropov had to wait until the second Supreme Soviet session after he took over as party leader to add the presidential title and there are other possibilities.

Mr. Brezhnev, who took the title of president in 1977, replacing Mr. Nikolai Podgorny, was the first Soviet leader to combine both posts. His predecessors, Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev, have been content with the party leadership, the real top job.

Mr. Brezhnev used the ceremonial title, however, to put himself on an equal protocol level with other executive heads of state, notably the U.S. and French presidents.

Internally, however, the Soviet bloc media always put the party job first, to the extent that the East German News Agency ADN once issued a formal correction when it mentioned the Soviet leader's titles in the wrong order.

After Mr. Brezhnev's death the Supreme Soviet session the next month did not appoint Mr. Andropov president and he had to wait six months until the next session before getting the post.

This was widely interpreted at the time as indicating some form of power struggle, possibly involving Mr. Chernenko, then seen as Mr. Andropov's defeated rival for the party leadership.

At one stage under Mr. Andropov many Western commentators speculated that Mr. Chernenko might have been offered the presidency as a consolation for not becoming party leader.

Other candidates now for the presidency could include long-serving Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov or Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov. If any of these were named president they would probably leave their current post, opening the way for the promotion of a new man, according to Kremlin watchers.

## Chinese party shows forgiveness to opponents

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party is gradually watering down its internal "rectification" drive by offering opponents of the present leadership a chance to repent.

Friday's edition of the People's Daily summed up the latest set of official guidelines for the campaign to root out extreme leftists and corrupt party members as the "four don'ts" and the "four musts".

"Don't try and take advantage of others' shortcomings, don't persecute them, don't come down too hard on them and don't put on record what might be held against them," the paper said.

On the other hand: "They must be allowed to retract what they previously said, must have a chance to reform themselves, must be able to defend themselves, and must have the right to hold to their views."

The paper said the Peking army garrison had used these rules and had "created an atmosphere where everyone dared to unburden their souls and have the courage to come forward to criticise each other and themselves."

The party clean-up campaign began last autumn under the auspices of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, but it has since become

clear that there will be no large-scale purge along the lines of Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

The party wishes to avoid the excesses of another internal witchhunt and has been careful to stress that repentant corrupt officials and diehard leftist opponents of Mr. Deng should be given a chance to mend their ways.

However, diplomatic analysts also believe it is treading softly so as not to spark any concerted opposition from the millions of leftists amongst the party's 40 million members who joined during the Cultural Revolution.

## Witnesses say Aquino shot on plane steps

MANILA (R) — Two private security guards said Thursday that Philippines opposition leader Benigno Aquino might have been killed while descending the steps from an aircraft that brought him back to Manila last August.

They told an inquiry into Mr. Aquino's murder that they saw a man in white being escorted down the steps by guards when a shot was fired. The group was still about four steps from the tarmac.

The Philippines military has stated that Mr. Aquino was shot on the tarmac by Rolando Galman, who they said was a known killer and Communist guerrilla. Mr. Galman was himself shot by air force security personnel.

member inquiry she was about 10 metres from the steps when the gun went off.

"When I heard the first shot, I glanced at the staircase and saw a man in white being held by both arms by two uniformed soldiers," she said.

But at that point she was pushed to the ground by another guard and did not see what happened next, Miss Reyes said.

Mr. Efrén Aranas, 22, an employee of the same private security company, said he was about 15 metres from the steps.

"When I heard the first shot, I looked towards the stairs and saw a man in white held on the arms by two men about four steps from the ground," Mr. Aranas said.

He said he did not see anything

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
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### CAREFUL DEFENSE EARNS DIVIDEND

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ K 8 6 5 4  
♦ 10 6 5  
♣ J 10 4

**EAST**  
♠ 9 5 4  
♥ Q J 10 8 3  
♦ K 4  
♣ 9 8 6 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 10 2  
♥ 7  
♦ A Q J 5 3  
♣ K Q 7

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠.

We can do without many of the modern conventions. However, we do feel that the method of leads against three no trump employed by East-West has much to recommend it.

West's lead of the eight of clubs was conventional — second-best from a worthless suit. East won the ace, and it was obvious that to continue clubs was futile. Neither spades nor diamonds seemed to offer much hope, so East

shifted to a heart. Had West risen with the ace of hearts, the contract would probably have romped home. Declarer could win the third heart and, even though the diamond finesse fails, he cannot be stopped from making nine tricks.

But West was a careful defender. He inserted the jack of hearts. If declarer had been able to see through the cards, he would have known that he could afford to duck. But that play could have been had on many distributions where East had the ace of hearts. So declarer decided instead to win the king of hearts and rely on the diamond finesse.

Unfortunately, West held the king of diamonds. He reverted to ace of hearts and another, and the defenders took three tricks in hearts to go with their two tricks in the minor suits. They were one of the few pairs to defeat three no trump in a large tournament field in England.

This type of situation occurs frequently. When holding two honors that are not touching, it is often right for third hand to play the lower of those honors.

## Polish students resume protest over removal of crucifix

GARWOLIN, Poland (R) — Polish students continued a protest over the removal of crucifixes from their high schools Friday after their parents turned down an official demand that they accept the ban or see their children expelled.

Students at four schools in Garwolin, 60 kilometres southeast of Warsaw, flocked to an early morning Roman Catholic mass at which a town priest praised the parents for holding out against the demand.

Some 600 students at the school for agricultural studies, where the protests erupted on Wednesday, remained locked out as authorities kept the institution closed for a second day.

Students at the town's three other high schools said they would attend lessons after a boycott Thursday but added they planned to join a weekend protest trip to Czestochowa, site of the Black Madonna icon which is Poland's most powerful symbol of religious faith.

Parents of the students at the agricultural school said they had refused to sign a declaration handed them by regional officials Thursday which would have acknowledged the secular nature of the school.

Last September Poland's Catholic bishops strongly criticised the removal of crucifixes from high schools, hospitals, factories and other public places, and Garwolin's church officials have upheld that position in the last two

days.

The Communist authorities oppose the placing of religious symbols on public property on the grounds that it violates the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

The bishop of Siedlce, under whose authority Garwolin comes, called in the town's clerics Thursday to discuss the situation. Poland's primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, is due back in Poland soon from a tour of South America.

Representatives of the students, wearing wooden crucifixes under their jackets and coats, told Western reporters their protest had drawn support from neighbouring villages.

The town's students, who number about 2,500 out of a total population of 15,000, come from four high schools — for agricultural, economic, technical and general studies.

Local authorities have already closed the agricultural school and the director of the school for general studies, who opposes the removal of crucifixes, submitted his resignation Thursday, the students said.

In a separate development, a dissident Warsaw author, Marek Nowakowski, was arrested and charged with co-operation with unnamed anti-Polish organisations in the West.

The official PAP News Agency said Mr. Nowakowski was arrested on Wednesday after an investigation by the Warsaw military prosecutor's office.